

The SPORTS PINK

55p

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PREMIER LEAGUE SURVIVAL IS NOT ENOUGH FOR NIGEL

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PLAY-OFF MISERY FOR ROB

Hampshire ace's
bronze medal hopes
dashed by Aussies

See page 16



FANTASTIC MR FOX!

Scotland recall down to Dan's character - Adkins

NIGEL Adkins believes Saints full back Danny Fox's international recall is a testament to the character of the player and the club.

Fox has been named alongside fellow Saint Steven Davis in the Scotland squad to face Australia in a friendly next week.

It's been three years since Fox won his only previous international cap but his selection by Craig Levein follows on the

By Adam Leitch

back of a successful time following his £1.8m move from Burnley.

Adkins thinks both the player and Saints deserve credit.

He said: "It's fantastic."

■ Continued on page 2

RECOGNITION:
Danny Fox's Saints
form has earned
him an international
recall.



**COUNTDOWN
TO THE
PREMIER
LEAGUE**

8 DAYS TO GO...



DAN HARDING



Saints will take top
flight by storm – Dan
See page 3

TERRY PAINE



Saints legend's
EXCLUSIVE column
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NON-LEAGUE



Sherbs backed to
bounce back from
horror injury Page 11



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Saints Spotlight

Scotland recall for flying Fox

■ From front page

"You've got Foxy and Steven Davis who are going to go away and join their international teams.

"Foxy has done great for us. He's joined us and I think he's improved.

"Look at how advanced he was against Bristol City and being very attack minded like that is very pleasing.

"It's testament to his character that he's kept believing, kept working hard and he's got the recognition.

"We've got a great culture at Southampton, the players work extremely hard.

"Like you've found at the Olympics now if you can create that environment around yourself and be surrounded with good people that I believe that we've got at Southampton then you can only improve.

"When you look at the players a lot of them were in League One two years ago and they're still all here now challenging for positions in the Premier League having won back-to-back promotions.

"That is testament to the group of players we've got and how hard they've worked to keep improving and now they're in the Premier League."

For his part Scotland boss Levein is impressed by Fox's consistency and fitness record and is keen to give him a genuine chance to impress.

"He is now playing in the Premiership. His record of games for Southampton is fantastic, he hardly misses a match," he said.

"He plays almost every single week, he is a good age and he has already had a taste of international football.

"I want to give him an opportunity. I want to make sure that I have got plenty of cover in all of the positions and Danny is definitely one that I want to have another look at."

SURVIVAL IS NOT



IT WAS not so long ago that Saints were on the brink of bankruptcy. Now they will start the new season at Premier League champions Manchester City.

■ By Simon Peach

For those close to the club, few could have imagined such a fixture after the jour-

ney Saints went on when their 27-year spell in the top flight ended on the final day of the 2004-05 season.

Their seven years in the Football League were dominated by disappointment, adversity and, at times, tragedy. After a brief dalliance with promotion, things for Southampton gradually went downhill and they were relegated to the third tier at the end of the 2008-09 season. Things off the field, though, were far worse. Just six years after reaching the FA Cup final, the club were on the brink financially and looked like they could become the biggest name in English football to go out of business.

Step forward, Markus Liebherr. Few – if any – had heard of the Germany-born Swiss businessman when he pulled the club away from the precipice, but he is now a legend at St Mary's.

He put the club back on a sound financial footing, invested in the playing squad and announced a five-year plan to return the Saints to the Premier League.

They did it in three.

Liebherr, though, was not there to see it. The Saints owner passed away aged 62 in August 2010.

Following his death, a statement on the club website said: "He would have wanted to be there when the Saints get promotion to the Premier League," but his dream would continue under executive chairman Nicola Cortese.

True to those words – and ahead of schedule – Southampton have overcome the odds to follow in Norwich's footsteps by securing back-to-back promotions.

"It's a very positive future ahead," manager Nigel Adkins said.

"Nicola Cortese set the dream out and the vision to me to be in the Premier League within five years.

"Since he has been here, they've done it in three with back-to-back promotions and we're very, very ambitious.

"What we've got to do is make sure we're ambitious in the Premier League and not just go there and think 'oh, well if we can just get enough points to stay up then that will be successful'."

Those ambitions saw the club splash out a club record fee of about £7m for Burnley striker Jay Rodriguez earlier this summer.

His acquisition was followed by the additions of Rangers captain Steven Davis, Gillingham goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga and Crystal Palace's Nathaniel Clyne, with more signings expected before the end of the transfer window.

Saints have big ambitions.

"We've got to drive on, strive to be the best and Europe is obviously the goal," Adkins added.

"We can draw inspiration from Norwich and Swansea last season in how they acquitted themselves.

"Southampton Football Club ultimately have got to be in the division to get into Europe and ultimately have the dream of winning the division."

Such comments will surprise many, especially those who were with the club when it was at its lowest ebb three years ago.

But fortunes are changing at the south coast club and, after an up-and-down few years, the future looks bright.



"SET OUT THE DREAM": Nicola Cortese.

BUILDING PROCESS: Nathaniel Clyne has brought an injection of pace to Saints' right side in readiness for the big Premier League kick off.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST SAINTS AND

Saints Spotlight



ENOUGH FOR ADKINS



AIMING HIGH: Saints boss Nigel Adkins.

Harding tips "special" Saints to take top flight by storm

FORMER Saints defender Dan Harding believes that the club are set to "take the Premier League by storm".

The left back's three-year stay at St Mary's ended this summer, when he signed for Championship side Nottingham Forest, **writes GORDON SIMPSON.**

Harding revealed that leaving Saints was one of the hardest decisions he has had to make, but a necessary one if he wanted to play.

While the 28-year-old will not get to share in the experience of Premier League football with the club, he can take solace from being remembered as the initial building block on their path back to the top flight.

Harding was the first signing made in the Markus Liebherr era, joining on a free transfer shortly after the Swiss billionaire's takeover was completed.

He was with the club on their entire journey from the dark depths of League One to promotion from the Championship.

"I had the most amazing three years at Southampton," said Harding, who made 121 appearances for Saints, chipping in with five goals.

"When I joined the club I couldn't have asked for a better three years.

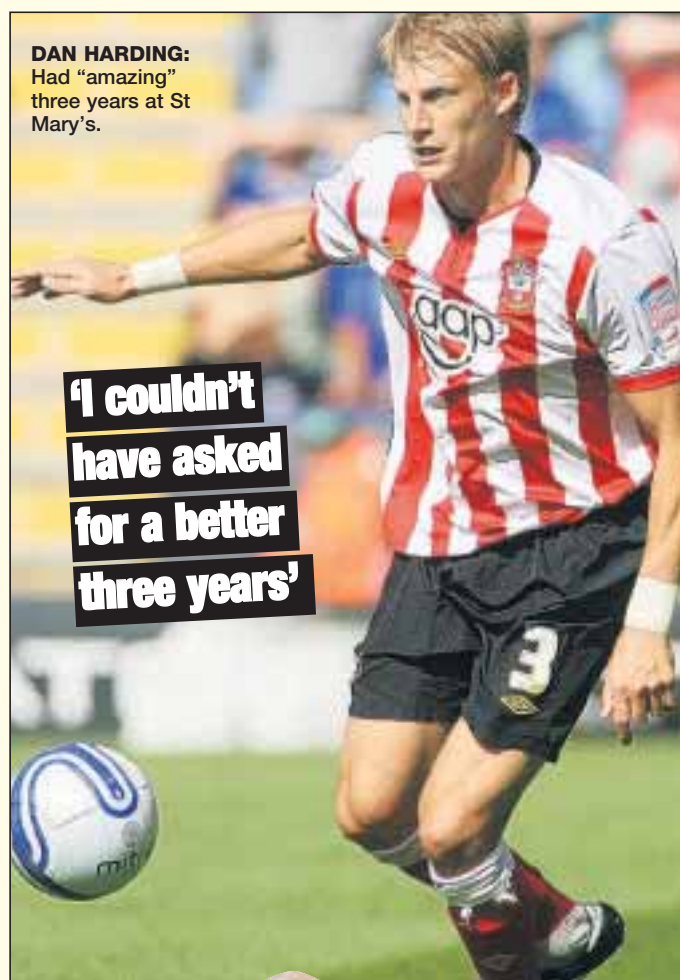
"It was one of the hardest decisions to leave with two years left on my contract but at the end of the day it came to down to one thing – and that is that I want to play football and that wasn't going to happen at Southampton.

"What they have at Southampton is very special and I was proud to be part of it.

"I had some interest from other clubs. There aren't many clubs I would have left Southampton for, but Forest was an offer I couldn't refuse."

Harding thanked his teammates, the fans, manager Nigel Adkins, his coaching staff, and chairman Nicola Cortese, while he reserved par-

DAN HARDING:
Had "amazing" three years at St Mary's.



'I couldn't have asked for a better three years'

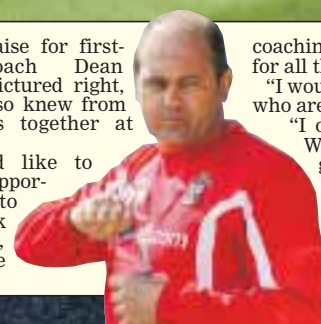
ticular praise for first-team coach Dean Wilkins, pictured right, who he also knew from their days together at Brighton.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicola, Nigel, the

coaching staff and my teammates for all their support," said Harding. "I would also like to thank the fans who are superb.

"I owe special thanks to Dean Wilkins for all the help he gave me and the extra work he was happy to do with me.

"And I look forward to watching Southampton take the Premier League by storm."



Saints battle back

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Ladies continued their pre-season programme with a 2-2 home draw with Aldershot Town Ladies at Stoneham Park.

Shots went ahead in the first quarter of an hour from a long range angled volley and doubled their lead on the half hour mark with a well taken volley.

Saints responded with a goal before half-time and got a deserved equaliser following a second-half corner.

Southampton Saints G & L FC first team are getting ready for their third consecutive season in the South West Combination Women's Football League, after promotion from the Southern Region Women's Football League in 2010.

They are always looking to recruit female football players to join the squad – aged 16 or over.

For more information, contact Adam Lee (first team manager) by emailing ssglfcfirstteam@hotmail.co.uk or phoning 07731053208

The U10's mini Saints newly formed side are looking for a goalkeeper for the coming season. The team will be competing in the Winchester & District Girls Football league.

Under-13 manager Krystal Whyte is looking to recruit two outfield players to a squad which has won the Winchester & District Girls League at six-a-side two years running. This year they enter the U13 New Forest Girls League, nine-a-side. The team include U12s and U13s.

Anyone interested please contact club secretary Rachel Murray to arrange a trial on 07711317654 or email rachjmurray@hotmail.co.uk.

The teams train on Thursday evening and fixtures are played on a Saturday morning.

The club website is pithero.com/clubs/southamptonssglfc/

Games are such an inspiration

WEEK two of the Olympics and Team GB goes from strength to strength.

At the time of writing we have bagged a staggering 24 gold medals with a grand total of 51.

Only the USA and China have secured more gold than us.

When you consider that China has a population of 1,347,350,000 – 25 times larger than us – and the USA has a population of 314,053,000 – five times bigger than us – Team GB's success is quite simply sensational.

When it was announced that London would host these Olympics, you knew the euphoria wouldn't last long.

It wouldn't be long until the penny pinchers bemoaned the costs and how the money would be better spent elsewhere.

As it was, the Games came in under budget, though God only knows what was or what that budget ended up as, but under budget is was.

But still, it wasn't enough for the nay sayers for whom the Olympics was bound to be an expensive white elephant.

I have a theory about people who don't like sport... of any kind.



Everyone surely has a love for some sort of sport, no matter how obscure it is?

It would seem that before even the start of the first event, some people were desperate for the London Olympics to fail.

The ceremony itself was being denigrated before it even started and was soon criticised for its "left wing bias."

It's interesting to note that the opening ceremony cost less money than Andy Carroll cost Liverpool.

I know what I'd prefer to watch.

When you look at the cost of the Olympics to a country, any country for that matter, in recession it's easy to bemoan it and look on the bleaker side of things.

But it's not the cost of the Olympic, or even the monetary value of the Olympics that is the main prize for Great Britain...

It's the idea it gives to all of us that anything is achievable if you work hard for it.

I received quite a few mails last week, for once agreeing with my words in last week's column (surely not – sports editor).

We live in an X Factor/Jeremy Kyle

world where everyone is owed a living.

Why work hard for what you want when the government can hand it to you on a plate?

Why bother practising or training hard when your dreams can come true in one audition?

For these sad, deluded people, the worlds of Sir Chris Hoy and Sir Steven Redgrave are light years away from them and their mentalities.

Can anyone seriously imagine them getting up at four in the morning and training all those hours?

Hell, I can't imagine them getting out of bed and going to work at that hour, let alone putting in the hours to improve themselves.

One newspaper columnist had the nerve to compare the London Riots to the allocation of Olympic tickets.

Where was the incentive for the disenfranchised of this country?

Where was their ticket?

Their ticket would be where yours and mine are, in a lottery.

But who can pay for these tickets? Those that work or save for them is the answer.

If these Olympics have told us one thing, it's that nothing is impossible if

you combine the dream and the effort.

For once this country has positive role models from all classes, religions and ethnic backgrounds.

There's none of the "Maybe we'll get lucky" mentality with the likes of Mo Farah and Andy Murray.

Their success isn't a lucky lottery ticket, it's years of hard work and dedication.

It's what turned Mo Farah from a troubled alienated youth into a gold winning Olympic champion.

And it's what will hopefully inspire the next generation into winners as well.

We all know we're in a recession, there's not a day goes by when we're not reminded of that.

But there's surely one thing that this recession can't take from us... hope.

Sport gives you that hope, it's society's great leveller.

No matter where you come from, whether you're working class, middle class or upper class, on a sporting field you're equals.

Your background won't give you extra speed or agility.

Only ability or dedication can do that. Sport brings people together, it's society that drives them apart.

These London Olympics have been a complete and utter triumph, here's to its legacy.

A generation of dreamers and worker that become achievers.

A golden dream for sure..

HARD WORK:
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Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



BRING ON THE GIRLS!

THEY are tenacious, fleet of foot and a joy to watch. Did I mention that they are girls?

The Olympics has given women's soccer the perfect platform to raise the profile of their game. I must confess I had many doubts as to their ability to find a niche in a male-dominated sport.

This was put to rest by the outstanding semi-final between USA and Canada. An Old Trafford classic, won 4-3 by the Americans, it more than demonstrated the improvement of the women's game.

This improvement has also been reflected in the attendances. A staggering 73,584 saw Team GB beat the favourites Brazil at Wembley during the group stage and that had followed two games at the Millennium Stadium with healthy crowds of 24,549 and 31,141.

The disappointment for GB was the loss to Canada 2-0 at Coventry. The support for the women's game can be put into perspective by the fact that 28,828 were in attendance at the Ricoh Arena.

Compare that with GB's last game against Canada in last year's Cyprus Cup, played in front of just 30 people!

The USA v Japan final did its best to reach the giddy heights of USA v Canada. I was glued to my seat, not wanting to miss a moment.

The honesty and commitment shown in both matches was a credit to the teams and the women's game as a whole.

USA v Canada had everything you could hope for as well as a brilliant hat-trick by Canada's prolific scorer Christine Sinclair, which took her tally for her country to 143 goals.

The USA side refused to lie down, scoring three equalisers before Alex Morgan's dramatic winner in the last minute of extra time allowed them to reach their fifth successive Olympic final.

Individuals to catch the eye during the tournament included the remarkable Sinclair ably assisted by her teammate Melissa Tancredi, who controlled the Canadian midfield for long passages of play.

USA's Abby Wambach added to her outstanding record by slotting home a penalty to level the scores at 3-3.

But the outstanding individual for the USA was midfielder Megan Rapinoe, not only in scoring two goals but for a work rate aligned with a good soccer brain that made her stand out in a very useful team.

Two excellent strikes by Carli Lloyd overcame the courageous Japanese in the final in front of a record 80,203 at Wembley.

Japan battled till the end and were rewarded with a late goal, but the USA were strong enough to hold on to a record fourth Olympic title to go with their wins in 1996, 2004 and 2008. I make no apologies for going overboard about

women's soccer as the whole competition has reflected the progress that has been made.

So I found it a little bemusing to learn that the US women's soccer league has been disbanded.

How that affects their chances at the 2015 World Cup remains to be seen.

HOT SHOT:
Canada's
Christine
Sinclair.

GLORY GIRLS:
Christine
Rampone cele-
brates with
Hope Solo after
USA beat
Japan.



Joey's way out

NOW I don't want to put the boot in (excuse the pun), but Joey Barton has found a controversial way of reducing his time away from the game.

QPR's errant mid-fielder, red-carded on the final day of last season at Manchester City, was found guilty of violent conduct by the FA and handed a 12-match ban.

On top of that, his club fined him six weeks' wages and stripped him of the captaincy as well as leaving him kicking his heels while they left on their pre-season tour of Malaysia.



IN TROUBLE:
Joey Barton.

Meanwhile, a cunning plan has emerged – a six-month loan to Fleetwood Town sanctioned by the FA.

If it goes ahead, Barton could return to action on October 6 or sooner, six weeks earlier than if he stayed at Loftus Road.

If he remains in west London, QPR's game against Southampton at Loftus Road on November 17 could be Barton's return, depending on their progress in the League Cup.

But it will be sooner if he manages to exploit this loophole.

If he ends up at Fleetwood, whose stadium has a 5,094 capacity and where the League Two club played in front of an average crowd of 2,264 last year, he may well reflect on the indiscipline that has plagued his whole career.

Sepp is spot on – for once!

IT is not often that I agree with FIFA president Sepp Blatter but his comments regarding Africa's reluctance to hire their own coaches is spot on.

I have always maintained that national teams should be managed by one of their fellow countrymen.

Of the six nations that represented

Africa at the World Cup in South Africa, only Algeria employed one of their own as coach.

The rest were coached by Europeans or South Americans. The preparation has also been a recurring problem, with many African football associations hiring foreign coaches – just months

before the World Cup.

So I'm pleased to see former Nigeria captain Stephen Keshi has been appointed coach of the Eagles. Having worked with him at the last World Cup, I know him to be a warm individual.

Hopefully he will lead the under-achieving African giants to success.

Saints Spotlight

All not well at City in lead-up to Saints game

MANAGER Roberto Mancini believes Manchester City have missed a trick by not strengthening their squad in the immediate aftermath of their Premier League title triumph.

The Blues, who play Saints in a season-opener at the Etihad Stadium next Sunday (Aug 19, 4pm), headed into this weekend's Community Shield showdown with Chelsea at Villa Park still to make a summer signing.

One transfer target, Eden Hazard, will be in the opposition ranks, whilst a second, Robin van Persie, looks to be bound for Manchester United.

Mancini is still hoping to secure the services of Daniel Agger and Daniele de Rossi before the new campaign begins against Southampton.

However, even if he manages it, Mancini feels precious time will have been wasted.

"When you win something it is important to improve," he said.

"But you should not buy new players 10 days from the end of the window. It should be two months.



ANGRY MAN:
Roberto Mancini.

can't sell their players because they don't have time to buy anyone else."

Mancini has expressed his frustrations with sporting director Brian Marwood. Yet the situation is not as straightforward as the Italian would like to believe.

It is fairly obvious City have the finances to fund any deal. However, Marwood is having to juggle the demands of meeting UEFA's Financial Fair Play regulations.

It is why United are set to profit from the arrival of Van Persie, which Mancini believes will only make them stronger. So good in fact that Mancini feels United are favourites to win the title, with his team as low as fourth.

As Balotelli and David Silva only returned to training six days ago, they were unlikely to start against Chelsea.

In addition, England duo Gareth Barry and Micah Richards have been ruled out with abdominal and ankle complaints respectively.

The bad news for Saints is that skipper Vincent Kompany is expected to shrug off a calf complaint that forced him to fly home from his club's Far East tour.

It's hats off to new

Simon Carter

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS EDITOR

SAINTS fans who love a bit of nostalgia as much as the current day goings on at St Mary's have been well served in recent years by the publication of numerous books.

And another one has hit the shelves this week.

'Suited and booted' is described on the front cover as 'A snapshot of pre-war Southampton FC in pictures'.

There are double page spreads on every season, starting from St Mary's FC's first season in 1887/88 and ending in 1939/39.

Author Duncan Holley has included team pictures from every one of those seasons, plus numerous other, fascinating archive Saints related photographs.

As always, the photos are as much social history as sporting history, showing how times have irrevocably changed.

For example, a photo of Saints fans in a game against Swindon in 1913/14 shows one supporter taking a swig from a bottle of something.

Hopefully the small boy in the front row of seats could see more than the picture suggests he might!

Another of the pictures reproduced here shows fans sitting on a roof and a terrace wall during a game against Everton in 1907/08.

What would Health and Safety officials make of that these days!

John Sillett, the man best remembered for managing Coventry City to FA Cup glory in 1987, has contributed a foreword to the book.

The reason being is that Sillett's dad, Charlie, signed for Saints in the 1930s.

Sillett had only ever seen a handful of pictures of his dad - who was to die in the second World War - in a Saints strip.

"So I was amazed to discover that this book has 12 photos in which dad appears," he writes.

Sillett was at St Mary's last April to see Saints win promotion to the Premier League with a 4-0 win over his former club, Coventry.

"Some Sky Blues fans spotted me and chanted my name," Sillett writes.

"Some adjacent home fans applauded - seemingly acknowledging my



Southampton origins.

"Now they can follow the Saints career of my father, as told in the photograph's of Duncan's most revealing

book."

Holley writes: "This book attempts to bring Southampton's pre-war years into focus through

these photographs that have outlived the players seen in them.

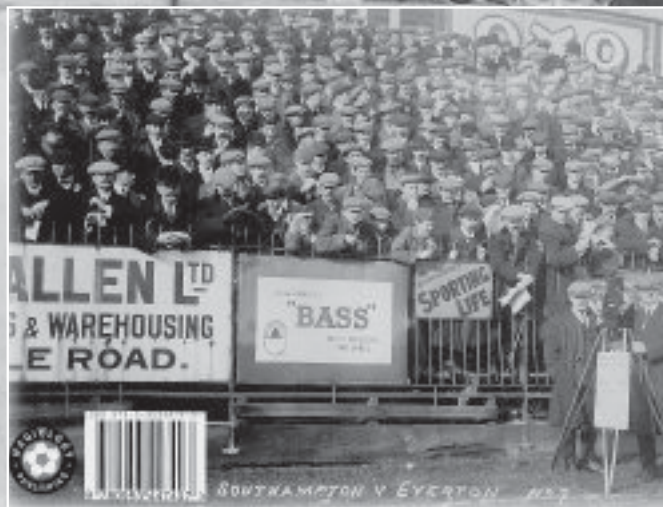
"It is a season by season photographic record of an

era when footballers earned a pittance, wore boots that covered their ankles, played on mud-bath pitches, and kicked - and,

SURVIVAL IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ADKINS - SEE PAGES 2-3

Saints Spotlight

books on Saints...



ARCHIVE SAINTS: The back, above left, and front, above right, of Duncan Holley's new 'Suited and Booted' book.



more daringly, headed – leather balls that when wet weighed as much as a newborn child.

"Let's hope that, if nothing

else, this pictorial history can transport you back, however fleetingly, to a more innocent age when the smell of linament and

the sound of a wooden rattle passed for pre match entertainment and the players wore shirts with no numbers, let alone names."

'Suited and Booted' is published by Hagiology Publishing, priced £16.95. Contact duncan@duncanholley.co.uk for information.

● Duncan Holley is one of the three Saints historians who currently comprise Hagiology Publishing, a collective which began back in the late 1990s.

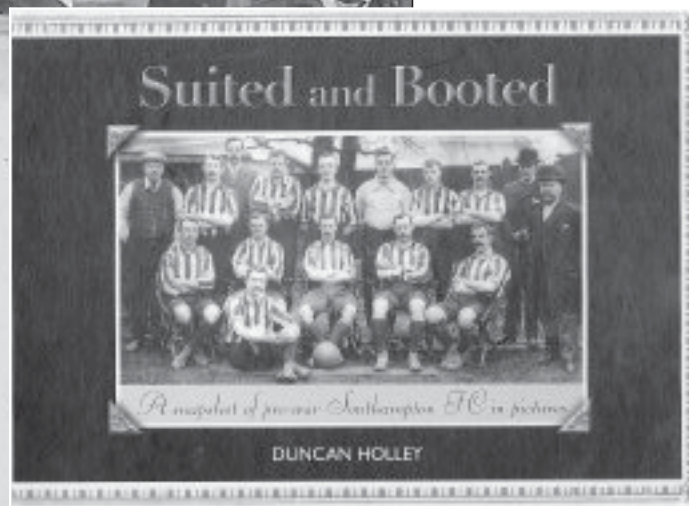
The original group consisted of five Saints fans – the current three of Holley, David Bull and Gary Chalk, plus Norman Gannaway and Dave Juson.

The new book is Hagiology's eighth Saints publication – and the seventh in agreement with Southampton FC and the Southern Daily Echo.

Two of the group's previous books, *Match of the Millennium* (2000) and *Full-Time at The Dell* (2001), have recently gone out of print.

The five other books are *In That Number*, a 640-page hardback chronicling Saints' post-war history, *Constant Paine* (biography of Terry Paine), *Dell Diamond* (biography of Ted Bates), *Saints v Pompey* and *Tie A Yellow Ribbon* (written by Tim Manns, chronicling the 1976 FA Cup win).

Hagiology's ninth Saints



book will be published around this time next year.

'All The Saints' is an A-Z of every single player to have appeared in a first team game for Saints, starting in November 1887 and including the forthcoming Premier League campaign.

Fans can order 'subscriber' copies now for £30 plus £10 postage and packing for a single book. Any fan doing so will have their name printed in the back of the book.

Individual 'All The Saints' enquiries can be made to g.chalk@sky.com

Wigan have lost players but not their manager

THERE have been one or two notable exits from Wigan already this summer and there may be more – but the most crucial thing for the club ahead of their eighth successive Premier League season is that boss Roberto Martinez, pictured, is staying put.

The Latics are Saints second opponents of the season at St Mary's Stadium on August 25 (3pm).

They stayed up last term thanks to a remarkable finish to the campaign, but it had seemed Martinez could be destined for pastures

new, with his name being linked with the vacant managerial positions at Aston Villa – who he had turned down a year earlier – and Liverpool.

But he remains boss and Wigan fans have every reason to be looking to 2012-13 in optimistic mood – even with the squad shorn of the services of influential midfielder Mohamed Diame and the Latics' record Premier League goalscorer Hugo Rodallega, who have joined West Ham and Fulham respectively.

Also on the way out could be key forward Victor Moses, a target of Chelsea, but Wigan supporters will bear in mind that their team's impressive escape last term – where, having struggled for most of the season, they won seven of their final nine games, including victories over Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal – was achieved without wide man Charles N'Zogbia, their star performer from the previous campaign.

Fraser Fyvie is one of the two players – along with Spanish defender Ivan Ramis – that Martinez has recruited so far this summer in an attempt to offset the departures.

Arsenal have reason to believe

PER Mertesacker believes Arsenal's flurry of transfer activity ensures they are equipped to improve on last season.

Spain attacking midfielder Santi Cazorla is the latest new arrival at Emirates Stadium after completing a £16million move from Malaga.

He joins strikers Lukas Podolski, pictured, and Olivier Giroud.

The trio have given Arsenal, who Saints visit on September 15, renewed optimism that they may challenge for silverware following seven barren years.



HARDING TIPS SAINTS TO TAKE TOP FLIGHT BY STORM - SEE PAGE 3

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Williams joins Woking
FORMER Eastleigh striker Brett Williams has joined Blue Square Bet Premier new boys Woking on a long-term loan.

The 24-year-old from Hedge End was sold by the Spitfires to Reading for £50,000 in January 2011, but has yet to feature for Brian McDermott's side.

He spent the first part of last season on loan at Rotherham United, scoring his first League goal against Crawley, and then saw out the 2011/12 campaign at Northampton Town.

He joined Scottish club St Johnstone on a week's trial last month with a view to a loan move, but will instead be playing closer to home with Garry Hill's promoted BSB South champions Woking.

Williams, pictured above, who has a year to run on his Reading contract, featured for the Cards in a midweek draw at AFC Hornchurch and got another 67 minutes under his belt in last Saturday's 2-1 friendly win over Aldershot Town.

He is the second ex-Eastleigh frontman to sign for Woking on loan, joining Aldershot's Bradley Bubb at Kingfield.



Clay showing the Wey
WEYMOUTH boss Brendon King believes former Salisbury City player Danny Clay provides the key ingredient the Southern Premier club have been lacking.

Not only has King been impressed with the combative midfielder's performances on the pitch, but he is delighted with the positive impact the ex-Exeter, Salisbury and Truro man is having on those around him.

"Danny has come in this summer and been fantastic," said King.

"He does not stop talking and organising. He leads by example both in the way he plays and the way he conducts himself off the pitch.

"We have missed that type of presence in the middle of the park and you can already see the difference he is making to the rest of the side.

"Despite being only 26, he has bags of experience. There is no doubt he is having a positive influence."

Jor-dropping performance

EX-SAINTS and Eastleigh wideman Jordace Holder-Spooner was once again the star of the show as Basingstoke Town got back to winning ways in Tuesday's 2-1 friendly defeat at Hungerford.

The Reading-based attacker scored both goals in a 2-1 victory over the Southern One South & West side.

With Ashley Bayes, Tim Sills, Nathan Smart and Jay Gasson all rested and Jide Ogunbote injured, Stoke boss Jason Bristow went with an attacking 4-3-3 system with Holder-Spooner, Delano Sam-Yorke and ex-AFC Totton marksman Stefan Brown all starting up front.

Holder-Spooner struck after six minutes, curling home brilliantly from the edge of the area.

And he doubled the

lead with 12 minutes to go, intercepting a loose pass before beating a defender and smashing low past the keeper.

Hungerford netted a late consolation but, overall, Basingstoke's defending was a vast improvement on their two previous friendlies which had resulted in 5-1 defeats to Football League duo AFC Bournemouth and Brentford.

"It was the perfect game for us because Hungerford like to play and are a good side, so there were times where we had to be disciplined in our shape," said Bristow.

"We defended well for 88 minutes, but the main thing was creating chances and we did that in abundance. The front three were electric in the first 20 minutes and we could have had four goals."



STARRING ROLE: Jordace Holder-Spooner, right, scored both Basingstoke goals in the 2-1 victory over Hungerford.

Spitfires decide to go with just one reserve side

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

EASTLEIGH are running just one reserve side this season having pulled out of the Wyvern Combination League.

The club will remain in the Suburban League as it provides a much higher standard of football against the second strings of many fellow Conference South clubs.

But the Spitfires have opted against a second season in the fledgling Wyvern set-up which comprises a mix of mainly Southern and Wessex reserve sides.

In a change of approach, Eastleigh will put the pick of their most talented prospects on contract and loan some out to local Southern League clubs to gain first-team experience.

A club statement announced: "It is with regret that we have decided to pull out of the Wyvern League. "We will remain in the Suburban League as it is considered a much higher standard of football.

"It was a difficult decision as there are some advantages to competing in the Wyvern League, such as minimal travelling and providing young players with experience of playing against older opponents.

"However, after careful consider-

EASTLEIGH QUIT WYVERN LEAGUE

ation and consultation with (manager) Ian Baird, (football in the community/academy head) Dan Wright and the relevant coaches, it was agreed unanimously as a working group that we should take a different approach to developing our younger talented players.

"This approach includes putting some of our most talented players on contract and, in some cases, loaning them out to local Southern League clubs to enable them to gain experience playing against older and better players at a higher level. By doing this we are bridging the significant

gap between Conference South and reserve team football.

"We appreciate this decision will disappoint some people, but this is another component of change the club need to go through for the long-term future and stability of the club.

"The first team will always remain the priority. We must ensure the support structure is robust and, in the long term, produce home grown players."

Manager Ian Baird, pictured left, said: "The players the club are giving contracts to are ones we believe have got a future. They are nowhere near the first team at the moment, but we believe they will have a chance in the coming years."

Wright succeeds Danny Smith as football in the community/academy

head, having worked closely with his predecessor since arriving at the Silverlake in June last year.

A UEFA B licence coach, Wright previously worked for a football coaching company for four years. His role will include working with Dave Hazlegrove managing

Eastleigh's Suburban League team. Joining Wright's coaching team is Steve Stone, a former Portsmouth FC academy coach who holds a UEFA A badge. Stone is currently employed by the FA in a coaching role in the army and will coach the Spitfires' under-18s and under-15 academy team.

"These are the first steps in further improving the good work already done by Danny Smith and others, laying the foundations for the future development and retention of young, talented players," added the club statement.



EMAIL TEAM PICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

FORCE IS BACK WITH LUKE

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

WHAT a difference eight months has made for Lymington Town striker Luke Watts.

When Andy Leader took his first game in charge at Bemerton Heath last December, his verdict on the Southampton-based former AFC Totton, Sholing and Totton & Eling frontman was "not in a million years!"

Watts was promptly dumped on the bench for the following league game against Blackfield & Langley – a far cry from the events of last Saturday when his brilliantly taken hat-trick in a 3-0 win at Bournemouth Poppies got Town's Sydenhams Premier season off to a scintillating start.

Having had the better of the first half, Lymington took the lead against the run of play when Watts finished one-touch inside the box after being played in by Martin Harris.

His next goal was a superb diving header from Jack Igglesden's cross and Watts completed his stunning repertoire by breaking from the halfway line, outpacing the Poppies defence and drawing the goalkeeper before slotting home left-footed.

"I've been around football a long time and I don't think I've seen a better hat-trick from a centre forward," said Leader.

"We were a bit nervous after the first goal had gone in. They hit the post and our goalkeeper George Passingham pulled off a couple of good saves, so we rode our luck a bit. But we played counter-attacking football and Luke came up with two more outstanding finishes."

"Luke had signed for the club about a week before I came here. I think he was the Hussey brothers' last signing."

"He played for me in that first game at Bemerton and he looked so unfit that I thought: 'Not in a million years!'"

"But Luke has worked his socks off



FROM ZERO TO HERO: Lymington Town striker Luke Watts, right, has won over Andy Leader, below,

in pre-season and he's as fit now as he's ever been. He looks a class player."

have been a lot of easy goals he's missed.

"But I think the penny's dropped now and against Poppies he showed such composure in front of goal."

"I know it's early yet, but Luke's got the bit between his teeth and he could be in for a very good season."

With five of his former charges – Steve Llewelyn, Sam Lockyer, James Wilson, Max Frampton and Fawzi Saadi – in the Bournemouth squad, victory had a bitter-sweet edge for Leader.

But, despite the severity of the opening day scoreline, he believes

Poppies will still have a good season.

"The pitch was shocking, but Bournemouth will be fine once they settle down," he said.

"To catch them cold on the first day was a great result for us."

"It was an absolutely fantastic performance by our lads. I couldn't have wished for a better start."

"It's the first time our back four of Jon Horner, Dan Pancaldi, Martyn Randall and club captain Luke Ansell had played together – including pre-season – but we set out our formation on a big pitch and executed our game plan fantastically."



"His problem in the past has been that he wants to smash the ball and there

Non-league News

Town get midfield Aid
MIDFIELDER Aidan Sainsbury has put pen to paper for Evo-Stik Southern League Division One South & West club Wimborne Town after spending two and half seasons playing in Spain.

The 23-year-old, who lives on the Isle of Wight, played for Spanish third division outfit CD Arguineguin.

Sainsbury is no stranger to Wimborne boss Steve Cuss, pictured, having been at AFC

Bournemouth before his departure to Spain.

"Aidan is a good technical midfield player," said Cuss. "I've known him since his days at AFC Bournemouth. He has impressed during the pre-season and I'm delighted to have him on board."



Simkin injury fury

DORCHESTER Town picked up two untimely ankle injuries in a match manager Phil Simkin would rather not have played.

Ben Watson and Neil Martin now face a race to be fit for next Saturday's Blue Square Bet South kick-off after getting injured in last weekend's Ian Hutchinson testimonial match which ended 0-0 against arch-rivals Weymouth.

"I did not want to play the game in the first place, but the decision went out of my hands," said Simkin, pictured left.

"We have come out of it with a couple of injuries to Ben and Neil. Why we played it I will never know. I just cannot understand it."

"I am pleased for Ian Hutchinson and would do anything for the lad but, if I had the choice, we wouldn't have played this with only a couple of weeks left of pre-season."

"It was always going to be Weymouth's cup final and, fair play to them, they stopped us playing."



Poppies will flower – Joyce



RETURNING striker Scott Joyce insisted there was plenty to come from Bournemouth Poppies – despite a terrible start to the season against Lymington Town.

Joyce, pictured left, who is back with the Poppies following a successful spell with Poole Town, maintains that Kenny Vaughan's new-look side will improve over time.

Bournemouth were stunned by a second-half hat-trick by Lymington's Luke Watts and Joyce admitted: "It's disappointing. We started well and

were all over them until, out of the blue, they nicked one."

"We tried to push on but got caught on the break. The scoreline flattered them."

Poppies build-up to the new Sydenhams Premier campaign wasn't helped by a lack of pre-season action.

"We had just three friendlies because different teams pulled out. It hasn't been an ideal pre-season and I don't think we're 100 per cent match fit yet," said Joyce.

"We haven't played together that much, so I think we're going to be playing catch-up, but there is definitely more to come."

"We've got decent players here and anything less than the top five or six will be a disappointing season for us."

Joyce, who had to drop back into the Sydenhams League after his family circumstances changed, added: "I wouldn't have gone to any other club than Poppies in the Wessex because I'm quite close to Kenny (manager Vaughan)."

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Hughes out of opener

EASTLEIGH'S latest summer signing Mark Hughes is almost certain to miss the start of the Blue Square Bet South season at Boreham Wood next Saturday.

The former Barnet skipper, pictured below, has his foot in temporary plaster after falling victim to a bad challenge in Tuesday's 2-0 friendly win over Oxford United.

The fear is that the 28-year-old Northern Ireland international midfielder has either broken a toe or a metatarsal bone.

But nothing will be known for sure until he has another X-ray on Tuesday.

"Due to the swelling, we don't know if it's a metatarsal or toe," said manager Ian Baird. "Either way, it wouldn't be good news."

"Mark was obviously a big signing for us, so it's extremely disappointing to lose him as a result of a bad tackle."

The good news for Eastleigh is that defender Osei Sankofa was due to resume training this week after falling off a kerb while out running just before the start of pre-season.

Left-back Adam Everitt's bad arm is heavily bruised rather than broken, but centre-half Gary Elphick is still in pain with bruised or, possibly, cracked ribs sustained at Winchester City last Saturday.

Not so beautiful game

GLENN Bridgman wasn't overly impressed with the quality of the football that greeted AFC Portchester on their arrival into the Sydenhams big time.

The attack-minded Sydenhams One runners-up were held 3-3 at home by Hamworthy United last Saturday and Bridgman felt there was only one footballing team on the park.

"Hamworthy didn't play football, they just play long ball and scored all three goals from set-pieces," he said.

"I believe the game should be played differently and I want my team to play proper football."

Portchester were leading 3-2 heading into the closing minutes through Liam Horsted, skipper Kevin Pottage and dangerman Simon Woods. But substitute Jordan Basing rescued the Hammers at the death after Liam Currell and Stephen Walker had struck for Simon Browne's new-look side.

Portchester, though, got the win they craved on Tuesday, beating Alresford Town 3-2 through Woods (2) and Horsted. Carl Saunders and Suhael Odeh replied for the Magpies.



Sholing and Totton on Red alert

SHOLING will host last season's beaten semi-finalists AFC Totton in the first round of the Southern League's Red Insure Cup on Wednesday, October 17.

Totton powered all the way to the last four last season only to slip up 3-2 at home to Clevedon Town.

Sholing, too, have a good pedigree in the competition having reached the final as VT FC in 2009/10 and the quarter-finals the following season. Last term, though, Dave Diaper's (pictured right) men bowed out early, beaten 3-2 at home by Wimborne Town.

Southern League new boys Winchester City

have landed a home tie against Alex Pike's Gosport Borough who are back in the Premier Division big-time.

Red Insure Cup first round fixtures:

Monday, October 15: Beaconsfield SYCOB v Chesham Utd, Hitchin v St Neots, Mangotsfield v Clevedon.

Tuesday, October 16: Abingdon Utd v Daventry, AFC Hayes v Uxbridge, Aylesbury or Barton Rovers v Cambridge City, Banbury Utd v North Leigh, Bedford Town v Leighton Town, Bedworth Utd v Barwell, Biggleswade v Royston Town, Bridgwater v Bideford, Burnham v Ashford Town



(Middx), Chalfont St Peter v Slough Town, Chippenham v Paulton Rovers, Cinderford v Bishops Cleeve or Evesham, Fleet Town v Northwood, Kettering v Arlesey, Merthyr Town v Yate, North Greenford Utd v Godalming, Poole Town v Weymouth, Rugby Town v Leamington, St Albans City v Hemel Hempstead, Stourbridge v Redditch, Thatcham Town v Hungerford, Tiverton v Taunton, Wimborne Town v Bashley, Winchester City v Gosport Borough, Woodford Utd v Didcot Town.

Wednesday, October 17: Frome Town v Cirencester, Guildford City v Chertsey, Sholing v AFC Totton, Swindon Supermarine v Shortwood.

BROUGHAM: LONG PATH BACK FOR BRADING

STEVE Brougham would love to see his old club Brading Town back in the Sydenhams Premier one day - even though the Romans' loss is very much Newport IoW's gain.

Two seasons ago, Brougham led Brading to their highest ever finish of fourth in the Wessex top flight - a mammoth achievement for the unfancied Isle of Wight club, writes **WENDY GEE**.

Since Brougham departed the Peter Henry Ground last November many of that successful Romans side have been reunited with him at Newport, convincing many that the former Southern League club could be heading back to the big time with the pick of the Island crop.

But while Port's star appears to be rising, Brading are preparing for a future in the Isle of Wight League having been forced to temporarily pull the plug on Wessex football due to the cost of travel and league administration fees.

Admitting he will miss his old club's presence in the Sydenhams ranks, Brougham said: "I would like to see them back in the Premier Division."

"With Brading no longer in the league it means we have no Christmas or Easter derbies to look forward to."

But Brougham added: "Brading got so far up that I think it will be a really hard job to get back there."

"People don't realise how much they were punching above their weight."

"Once you're out of it, it's

very difficult to get back."

Newport had to fight to get their first points on the board, winning 4-3 at home to Hayling United last Saturday.

Twice they fell behind to goals by Lee Tigwell, but twice Brougham's former Brading charge Alek Przespolewski hit back following his summer switch from Winchester City.

Former Sholing midfielder Iain Seabrook put Port ahead for the first time from a John McKie assist and, when another ex-Brading man Joe Rayner made it 4-2, the Islanders looked to be home and dry.

But Hayling, who only narrowly escaped relegation last season, set up a nervy finish when substitute Mike Turvey pulled one back.

Both managers spoke highly of the opposition afterwards.

"I was very impressed with Hayling," said Brougham. "They were a totally different team to last season and there is no doubt in my mind that their league position will be much improved on last year."

Returning the compliment, Humbugs boss Steve Poulton added: "We went close to getting something from the match but, to be fair, Newport look a very good side and could do well this season."

Newport followed Saturday's win with a 0-0 stalemate at Totton & Eling on Wednesday.

The Islanders - minus Oli Fleming (illness) and McKie (unavailable) - had to play 45 minutes with ten men after Przespolewski had been sent off for unsporting conduct just before the second half got under way.



NEWPORT OPENER: Iain Seabrook.

CALL SPORTS EDITOR SIMON CARTER ON 023 8042 4515

Non-league Football

HE'S SHER GOLD

Stags boss backs "winner" Nathaniel to bounce back from horror injury

AFC TOTTON boss Steve Riley is backing Nathaniel Sherborne to come back sharper and stronger from the heartbreaking injury that rules him out of the new season.

Riley was away on holiday in Spain when the galling news reached him that Sherborne had suffered a broken leg and dislocated ankle in the pre-season friendly against Basingstoke Town.

The popular former Alton Town frontrunner underwent surgery two weeks ago after being caught by a challenge from Basingstoke's new signing Chris Paterson shortly before half-time at the Testwood Stadium.

"I didn't see what the tackle on Sherbs was like because I was away, but these things happen in football. You get injuries, it's just one of those things," said Riley.

"I'm gutted about what's happened, but Sherbs is a positive character, he's a winner and I'm sure he'll come back fit and strong.

"I rang him when I got back and we had a long chat and he seemed very upbeat and positive.

"He's determined to come back fitter and stronger and I'm sure he will."

As an ex-footballer himself, Riley has had his fair share of injuries and knows that, with a positive mental attitude, players can sometimes defy the medical prognosis.

"It depends on how you are as an individual, but I've come back from injuries quicker than the medics have said and I think Sherbs will too," he said.

"He'll do it sensibly, of course, but we'll give him as much help as we can to get him back as quickly as possible.

"Sherbs has got mental toughness and he's still got lots of football to play.

"He's had loads of support already which shows how popular he is.



FIGHTING SPIRIT: Nathaniel Sherborne, centre.

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

"I've seen Sherbs around the football circuit but I've only really got to know him the short time I've been at Totton and he's a great lad.

"He's an honest lad too and I know he'll take the right advice, do it properly and get back to playing as soon as possible.

"It will be great once he gets past the first six weeks. That's a big hurdle and, once he gets over that, he can take it step by step.

"I know he'll bounce back."

Riley is hoping young Alex Baldacchino can help fill the Sherborne void.

The Havant & Waterlooville striker

scored the only goal of the game for the Stags at Wimborne last Saturday and then featured again in Tuesday's 2-0 home defeat by Salisbury City.

Portsmouth-based Baldacchino finished last season dual-signed with Southern One South & West side Poole Town having scored goals galore for New Milton in the Sydenhams League.

Poole were interested in taking him again, but Totton boss Steve Riley said: "I spoke to (Poole manager) Tom Killick and the travelling's a bit of a chore for Alex. He'd like to play closer to home.

"He and Richard Gillespie worked well together against Salisbury.

"Alex sits on the shoulder of defenders and makes some good runs, but our supporting play was not as good as it has been in pre-season.

"Our delivery wasn't good enough and Salisbury have a strong defence who kept getting blocks in.

"We matched them for most of the game, but tired in the last 20 minutes. They're full-time and fitness told in the end. But it was quite a good runout. We needed a good, tough test."

Riley was due to speak to Baldacchino this week and admits he would "love him to be involved" for the new Southern Premier campaign, which kicks off at Frome Town next Saturday.

But he added: "Even with Alex, we would still need another striker.

"Alex is a lively player who knows where the goal is, but he is still developing his game. I'm looking to see whether we can get in a loan player with a bit of experience."

Non-league News

Stu quick to snap up former QPR midfielder

HAVANT & Waterlooville boss Stuart Ritchie has added Stefan Bailey to his Blue Square Bet South squad.

Having featured in the Hawks' impressive 3-1 friendly victory over AFC Bournemouth, the former QPR midfielder impressed on the club's pre-season trip to Ireland when Havant followed a 5-0 win over Irish police side Garda with a 1-1 draw against Irish Premier League side UC Dublin.

Now 24, Bailey made his QPR debut in the Championship during the 2004/05 season at the age of 17 and played 18 games in all for the west Londoners.

He joined Grays Athletic in 2008 and, via a loan spell with Farnborough, then featured for Ebbsfleet United in 2009/10. More recently he has played for AFC Telford United and Kettering Town.

S a h r Kabba, the H a w k s' recent capture from Weston-super-

Mare, was on fire in Ireland, scoring a hat-trick against Garda and then equalising against UC Dublin.

It was the sixth goal in three games for the man dubbed Havant's 'pocket rocket' and arrived just 60 seconds after he gone on as a substitute for Ollie Palmer.

"It's been a super weekend," said the Hawks' former AFC Totton manager Ritchie, pictured above, who used to play in Ireland for Waterford United.

"We've played two very different games and I've learned an awful lot about some of the players."

Havant bounced back from behind to beat Gosport Borough 2-1 on Wednesday with second-half goals from Scott Jones and ex-AFC Totton targetman Ryan Moss.

Dan Wooden had given Southern Premier new boys Borough a half-time lead.



AFC TOTTON have welcomed former Salisbury City secretary Alec Hayter on board for the new Evo-Stik Southern Premier season.

Having ended a lifetime love affair with the Wiltshire club, Hayter, pictured left, will join Totton's secretarial team, bringing with him a wealth of administrative experience from Southern League through to Conference National level.

Hayter, who lives in Totton, said: "I'm told I was taken to

Stags make another signing

Salisbury in a pram and I'm 68 now, so you can work out for yourself how long I was involved with the club.

"Over the years I'd been programme editor and done press and radio and I'd been secretary there for about five years since Nick Holmes appointed me.

"I'm not one for titles so I'm happy to go to Totton in a secre-

tarial advisory capacity.

"I live in the town and if I was going to go to another club, this was the one.

"I first had dealings with Totton when Jono Davies went there on loan from Salisbury and John Heskins, who had been landed with the secretary's job, popped round my house to sort out the paperwork.

"Since then I've been to watch them when Salisbury haven't had a game.

"Joining Totton is something to look forward to."

A club spokesman said: "Alec joins the team with a wealth of experience and is a fantastic addition to the club.

"He will work in conjunction with current club secretary Charles Wood and we wish him a long and fruitful stay at AFC Totton."

EMAIL NON-LEAGUE NEWS TO wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Clarke joins A list
SALISBURY City boss Darrell Clarke has become one of the country's select minority to hold a UEFA A coaching licence.

It marks the culmination of several years' hard work covering a multitude of areas including tactics, fitness, sport psychology and player analysis.

Congratulating Clarke, below, on his achievement, Whites' board of directors said: "We are delighted to hear that Darrell has achieved his A licence."

"He's put in a huge amount of work to achieve this prestigious footballing qualification and it is very much deserved. Well done Darrell!" Having lost last Friday's friendly 3-0 to a strong Swindon Town line-up, Salisbury got back to winning ways with a 2-0 victory at AFC Totton on Tuesday - Theo Lewis and Dan Fitchett on target.

City have one more friendly at home to Portsmouth today (Saturday) before entertaining league newcomers AFC Hornchurch in next Saturday's Blue Square Bet South opener. Last Sunday's Fun Day at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium raised close to £2,000 for the Naomi House children's hospice.

Cup holders through
CHRISTCHURCH opened their defence of the Sydenhams League Cup by beating Fawley AFC 2-1 at Hurn Bridge on Tuesday.

Ben Osborne put Priory ahead from a Mark Smith corner and Karl Yelland doubled the advantage with a 30-yard thunderbolt off the crossbar. The Oilers replied when Darren Morris pounced on a poor back pass, but it was holders Christchurch who booked a home tie against Hordean in the second round.

Stu wants a club
FORMER Alresford, Lymington Town and Fareham player Stuart Green is on the lookout for a new club. The winger/striker is due back from a coaching stint in the USA on August 27. Green can be contacted at stu.youthelitesoccer@gmail.com.

Perrett quick to impress

EDDIE Perrett's hat-trick ensured Bemerton Heath Harlequins stamped their credentials on the Sydenhams Premier title race from day one.

With Joe Sanger unlikely to play too often this season, Perrett - signed from Laverstock & Ford late last season - is an early contender to fill his boots after starring in a 3-0 home win over Romsey Town.

Having missed an open goal after just ten seconds, he got off the mark midway through the first half after Jack Slade had flicked on Graham Mankin's free kick.

Halfway through the second half Perrett made it 2-0 by finishing a long ball from Neil Williams and he completed his treble by rifling in Slade's pass.

"Eddie was outstanding," said Harlequins boss Ian Chalk, pictured right.

"I have always known he can score goals and I am very pleased with him."

"It was a new-look Romsey with new players and management, but it was comfortable and I'm delighted to get off to a winning start."

New Romsey boss Danny Barker took more positives than negatives from defeat.

"It was only 1-0 at half-time and we had a couple of chances through pacy right midfielder Pete Walker and Breon Graham," he said.

"Bemerton are very strong with lots of attacking flair and we had to soak up pressure. But we defended very well and I thought we might even get a draw."

"But there were a few tired legs out there deep in the second half, some gaps began to appear and Bemerton took advantage."

"I thought 3-0 was a bit harsh, but the bigger picture is that half our team had never played at that level before and the attitude and commitment was spot on."

"If we can take that into the rest of the season, I'm comfortable we can stay in this league."

"We were missing Lloyd Clarke, Marc Pascual and experienced centre-half Iain Calder and, when you weigh that up, there were more positives than negatives."

"We looked a good, young, solid outfit and I hope our lads have gained a bit of confidence from that."



HAT-TRICK:
Eddie Perrett.

MILLERS INVEST IN YOUTH

FORWARD-THINKING Totton & Eling are running two youth sides this season.

Last term's under-16s, managed by ex-Millers player Simon Edwicker, are stepping up to the under-18 category.

Replacing them in the lower age-group are former Tyro League outfit Totton Rangers who have moved under the club umbrella.

The under-16s' manager is Phil Dolton, assisted by John Heskins who is fixtures secretary over at Southern League neighbours AFC Totton.

"It's exciting for us to have two youth sides," said former club chairman and team manager Andy Tipp, who recently returned to the Millers as manager of football.

"We got rid of our reserves last year and decided youth was the way

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

forward with a view to them eventually becoming our reserve side.

"We can't bring in named players at Totton & Eling, so it's good for us to bring through youngsters who will feel part of the club."

"We're a community club and there's a big area round here to attract players. We're in a prime position and, with AFC Totton on our doorstep, the two clubs can cater for everyone."

"Some of the best youth players may move on, but the rest should hopefully be good enough for the Wessex League."

Tipp, who was instrumental in keeping the club alive during their

old BAT Sports days, is glad to be 'home' again.

"I've worked with (team boss) Kev Dawtry before and know quite a few of the players," he said.

"When I was here before I never really wanted the chairman's job in the first place, but we've got a new chairman now and someone working on the commercial side and, as long as things are sorted off the field, it gives us the chance to get on and do well in the league."

One off-the-field improvement this season is the introduction of a refreshment tent at the ground.

Since moving to Little Testwood Farm, the Millers have been sharing AFC Totton's clubhouse and will continue to do so.

But the new refreshment tent means fans can finally get a cup of

tea without leaving the ground while the game is on.

"Our ultimate plan is to get our own clubhouse. I know that's what the chairman wants," said Tipp, pictured left.

"But with the various funding and grants, that could take a few years, so we've put up a big marquee next to the hospitality lounge."

"I know AFC Totton's clubhouse is only a stone's throw away, but you still have to leave the ground to get there. That's OK after the game, but it's nice for fans to have place to get a cup of tea during the game and also get out of the elements if it's wet because we've only got a stand for shelter."

"We opened the tent last Saturday for the Fareham game and it was a success."

"It's a bit of a nomad structure, but it does the job and it's OK for the short term."

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Non-league Football

ROCKED BY THE ROBINS

Shell-shocked Hamble boss welcomes Downton into Sydenhams Prem title race

WHEN Dave Lewis was asked for his Sydenhams Premier title tip, he forecast that the 2012/13 championship trophy would be heading over the border to Wiltshire.

The GE Hamble boss hasn't changed his mind but, after Tuesday night's extraordinary events, he may well have opted for the wrong club!

Along with almost 50 per cent of Wessex managers, Lewis backed last year's runners-up Bemerton Heath Harlequins for the crown.

Yet it's Bemerton's neighbours Downton who have burst spectacularly out of the starting blocks, amassing six points and banging in 11 goals in their opening two games.

Having guided Hamble to a 2-0 win over Fawley last Friday, Lewis went on a spying mission to Downton's Wick Lane on Saturday and watched in awe as the rampant Robins burst Blackfield & Langley's bubble 4-0 through Danny Finnigan, Danny Urry, Vince Rusher and Nic Turpin.

But although the warning signs were there, nothing could have prepared him for Tuesday's return trip to the Brian Whitehead Sports Ground where Hamble – themselves much fancied for the title – fell victim to a jaw-dropping 7-3 defeat.

With just 185 seconds gone, Turpin unleashed a 40-yard



FIVE-STAR SHOW: Downton's Nic Turpin, left.

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

wonder goal which set the tone for a bizarre night.

Hamble lifted their chins off the floor to lead 2-1 through Jamie Musselwhite and Ashley Jarvis only for Danny Finnigan to restore parity with a terrific volley.

Turpin produced two more slick finishes to make it 4-2 early in the second half, but back came Hamble with another goal from Musselwhite.

At that stage the game could have gone either way, but it was Downton's fifth, scored by Finnigan, that convinced the Planemakers it was not to be their night.

On 78 minutes Turpin banged in his fourth with another top-drawer finish and he completed

his five-star performance by netting Downton's seventh five minutes from time.

"Downton are bang in the title race after two games!" declared Lewis, pictured left.

"We came out the better side tonight but then their player (Turpin) has hit the ball on the turn from 40 yards and it's gone straight in against the run of play.

"We came back to lead 2-1 and I felt we were in the driving set, but then Downton have put another one in the bracket from 25 yards.

"They've hit two more worldies to make it 4-2 and, although we came back to 4-3, it really knocked the stuffing out of us when the fifth one went in.

"But full credit to Downton, they're a really good side with all the ingredients to be championship contenders.

"They've got a nice mix of youth and experience and a good, experienced manager in

Jeff Softley who knows the league.

"Our players were shell-shocked afterwards because we felt we'd done enough to get something out of the game.

"We worked hard, we pressed the ball, we showed the quality to create chances and we scored three away from home.

"But we were beaten by the pure quality of Downton's goals.

"What I like about Downton is that they were gracious in victory, so all credit to Jeff and his team for putting themselves firmly in the title race.

"We'll hurt for a while, but we'll digest it and come back strong for tomorrow's (Sunday's, 3pm) FA Cup tie at home to Whitchurch."

The Planemakers are putting on a barbecue tomorrow in the hope of attracting a bumper Sunday crowd.



JEFF SOFTLEY

JEFF Softley watched his Downton side humble GE Hamble 7-3 on Tuesday night – and then promptly reiterated his belief that the Planemakers will win the Sydenhams Premier title!

Five goals from Nic Turpin and two from the on-song Danny Finnigan left Hamble reeling at Wick Lane, but still Softley is backing Hamble co-managers Dave Lewis and Paul Cotton to deliver the Wessex crown to Follands Park.

Assessing Tuesday's game, Softley said: "Hamble have got quality in abundance with two outstanding wingers, two great forwards, a quality right-back and Lloyd Webber in the centre of the park. I still think they will win the league.

"They really impressed me tonight even though we played brilliantly.

"Dave and Paul were superb in defeat. They came straight in afterwards and said 'well done, brilliant.' I can't remember the last time two visiting managers did that.

"The pair of them must be great working in the changing room together and will get the best out of their team.

"They beat a very decent Sholing side comfortably in pre-season and I still believe they're a top quality team."

Deep down, Softley would put Downton in the same bracket, but he is wary of getting too carried away.

"I'm not shocked by tonight's result because I know what we've got here," he said.

"We've still got our captain Josh Thomas to come in and we were also without Will Knight tonight, so Jamie Waters played for the first time at left-back."

Coming on top of Saturday's 4-0 demolition of Blackfield & Langley, it means the rockin' Robins have

Beaten 7-3 but Hamble will still win the league – Softley

opened the season with maximum points and 11 goals scored in two games.

"Not many people would have thought we'd have taken six points from our first two games when the fixtures were published," said Softley. "Blackfield came here with a lot of new signings thinking they could win, but we were very impressive.

"We know we've got a good team spirit here and that will always give us half a chance.

"It's been quite a start for us and it's good to be up there with the best, but the problem we have is that we've got quite a small squad.

"But Nic Turpin is on fire. His first goal against Hamble was probably the best I have ever seen. He flicked it into the air and hit it from near the halfway line.

"Danny Finnigan is flying and Joe Dorrington doesn't get the credit he deserves for all the hard work he does in midfield. He covers every blade of grass.

"Ben Smith has captained the side well,

plus we've got the experience of Vinny Rusher and, in my opinion, one of the best goalkeepers in the league in Charlie Aldridge. Add Declan McGregor to that and we're not a bad side."

Softley's small squad became slightly bigger this week when Danny Western rejoined the club.

The 27-year-old striker was part of the Robins' Division One title-winning team of 2010/11 and finished last season as top scorer for relegated Laverstock & Ford.

Downton have also been speaking to former Bashley striker and Winchester City manager Stuart Hussey and are closely monitoring the situation of Mark Osman who hung up his boots for AFC Totton at the end of last season.

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



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2012
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Non-league Football

TITLE WINNERS RETURN TO NEW MILTON TOWN

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

NEW Milton Town have added two more familiar names to their management team.

Former striker Kevin James and goalkeeper Mark Watson, both members of the Lymington & New Milton squad that won the Wessex League in 2004/05, have linked up again with their old teammate Darren Curtis at Fawcetts Field.

"Kevin hasn't played since he broke his leg playing for Wimborne two years ago," explained team boss Curtis. "He had to retire, but he was missing football and he's come on board as a coach to work with the strikers and help us with the attacking side of our game."

"Mark Watson's our goal-keeping coach. He does a lot of coaching for Fulham FC, working two days a week up there, and he's got a lot of experience that will help our keepers."

"I haven't brought Mark in to play. Mike Hookway is our number one and the only way Mark would feature is if all our keepers were out."

"But he's got a lot of knowledge and he's a good person to have around the changing room."

New Milton gave title tips Moneyfields a good run for their money in Tuesday's Sydenhams Premier opener at Fawcett's Field, but found themselves on the wrong end of a 1-0 scoreline.



COACHING DUTIES: Mark Watson and Kevin James, inset.

Moneys' returning striker Warren Hunt was suspended, but it was last season's goal hero Steve Hutchings who proved the difference between the sides.

The ex-AFC Bournemouth and Havant frontman had the ball in the net four times, but three were ruled out for off-side.

His eventual winner was a tap-in from six yards and

Moneys' assistant manager Graeme Gee said: "New Milton appealed for offside for that one too, but Steve reaped his reward for keep getting in there."

Gee, though, was the first to admit that the Portsmouth club's victory was not entirely convincing against industrious opponents.

"We weren't very good by our standards, so I'm more

than happy to come away from New Milton with three points especially as we only drew there last year," he said.

"We were a bit nervous and edgy and we weren't at our best, but that's to do with the way they played as well."

"They didn't really test us defensively, but Darren Curtis has assembled a different New Milton side who worked ever so hard."



ADIE ARNOLD

NEWLY-PROMOTED Verwood Town are still awaiting their first Sydenhams Premier win – and they have only themselves to blame.

The Potters got off to a flying start at Alton last Saturday, racing 3-0 up inside seven minutes, but then just frittered it away.

Jack Satterley's angled shot from Dean Evans's through ball got them off to a perfect start before Matt Delaney spotted the goalkeeper off his line and lobbed him with a free kick from the halfway line.

Verwood were in dreamland two minutes later when Bradley Hill dummied the keeper and set up Satterley for his second, but that was as good as it got for the visitors.

Harry Little dragged Alton straight back into it with a quick-fire double and, although Delaney smashed in another to make it 4-2, Matt Jackson and Simba Mlambo netted for Alton inside the first 15 minutes of the second half to leave a rollercoaster match all square at 4-4.

Learning curve for new boys Verwood

"It was a bit of a case of 'different league, same Verwood'," admitted manager Adie Arnold.

"If you make mistakes at this level, you get punished."

The new boys learned another harsh lesson on Wednesday, beaten 2-1 at Potterne Park by Horndean.

Dan Hayes and powerhouse frontman Chamal Fenelon fired the Deans 2-0 up before Martin Edwards replied.

Alton were involved in another goal feast on Tuesday, losing out 3-2 at home to Blackfield & Langley.

Mlambo headed them in front just two minutes in, but back came Blackfield with a Kevin Gibbens penalty and a trademark header from player-manager Ashley Vickers.

Liam Flanigan equalised on the hour with a vicious shot that beat keeper Tom Manley at his near post, but Max Crow settled it for the Watersiders with a superb, bending 35-yard strike that went in off the far post.

■ **BRAISHFIELD FC** are seeking a new first team manager. Anyone interested in the role is urged to contact either secretary Lee Whitelock on 07935 292964 or president Dave Old on 01794 367721.

Local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

Monday, August 13

CAPITAL ONE CUP

First round (all 7.45): Fleetwood Town v Nottm Forest, Oldham v Sheff Wed, Preston v Huddersfield.

FRIENDLY

Gosport Borough v Sholing (7.45)

Tuesday, August 14

CAPITAL ONE CUP

First round (all 7.45): Birmingham v Barnet, Bristol City v Gillingham, Charlton v Leyton Orient, Chesterfield v Tranmere, Dag & Red v Coventry, Derby v

Scunthorpe, Exeter v Crystal Palace, Ipswich v Bristol Rovers, Millwall v Crawley Town, Northampton v Cardiff, Oxford Utd v Bournemouth, Peterborough v

Southern, Plymouth v Portsmouth, Port Vale v Burnley, Stevenage v AFC Wimbledon, Swindon v Brighton, Torquay v Leicester, Yeovil v Colchester.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE Premier (all 7.45): AFC Telford v Forest Green, Alfreton Tn v Southport, Cambridge Utd v Lincoln City, Ebbsfleet Utd v Braintree Tn, Gateshead v Mansfield, Grimsby v Stockport, Hyde v Barrow, Kidderminster v Luton, Macclesfield v Wrexham, Newport County v Nuneaton, Tamworth v Hereford, Woking v Dartford

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE

Premier Division: Romsey v Moneyfields.

SL Cup, second round: Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton HH

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Senior Division: AFC Stoneham v Bournemouth Sports, Colden Common v

Overton, Fleetlands v Locks Heath, Hamble Club v Hedge End Rangers, Liphook v Clanfield, Liss Ath v Paulsgrove, QK Southampton v Otterbourne, University of Portsmouth v Sporting BW.

Wednesday, August 15

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

England v Italy (Stade de Suisse Wankdorf, 8pm), Northern Ireland v

Finland, Scotland v Australia (Easter Road Stadium), Serbia v Rep of Ireland, Wales v Bosnia-Herzegovina.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Qualifying Group Three: Wales U21 v Armenia U21 (Racecourse Ground).

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE

SL Cup, first round: Verwood v Hamworthy Utd

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Senior Division: Winchester Castle v AFC Aldermaston.

Combination: Clanfield v Liss Athletic, Paulsgrove v Fleetlands, Sporting BW v SAFC Stoneham.

FRIENDLY

GE Hamble Res v Eastleigh Res (7.30).

Thursday, August 16

FRIENDLY

Braishfield Res v BTC Southampton (at Stoneham Park).

Friday, August 17

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship (7.45): Cardiff v

Huddersfield.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier (7.30): Hyde v Luton.

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE

Premier Division: Christchurch v Blackfield & Langley, Fawley AFC v

Horndean.

SL Cup, second round: Fareham Town v

Hayling Utd.

Saturday, August 18

(All 3pm *ko unless stated otherwise*)

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal v Sunderland, Fulham v Norwich,

Newcastle v Tottenham (5.30), QPR v

Swansea, Reading v Stoke, West Brom v

Liverpool, West Ham v Aston Villa.

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Barnsley v

Middlesbrough, Birmingham v Charlton,

Burnley v Bolton, Crystal Palace v

Watford, Derby v Sheff Wed, Hull v

Brighton, Ipswich v Blackburn, Leeds v

Wolverhampton (12.45), Leicester v

Peterborough, Millwall v Blackpool, Nottm

Forest v Bristol City 22.

League One: Bury v Brentford, Crawley

Town v Scunthorpe, Crewe v Notts

County, Hartlepool v Swindon, Milton

Keynes Dons v Oldham, Portsmouth v

Bournemouth, Preston v Colchester, Sheff

Utd v Shrewsbury, Stevenage v Carlisle,

Tranmere v Leyton Orient, Walsall v

Doncaster, Yeovil v Coventry.

League Two: AFC Wimbledon v

Chesterfield, Bristol Rovers v Oxford Utd,

Cheltenham v Dag & Red, Exeter v

Morecambe, Fleetwood Town v Torquay,

Gillingham v Bradford, Plymouth v

Aldershot, Port Vale v Barnet, Rochdale v

Northampton, Rotherham v Burton Albion,

Southend v Accrington Stanley, York v

Wycombe.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: AFC Telford v Braintree Town,

Alfreton Town v Hereford, Cambridge Utd

v Southport, Ebbsfleet United v Wrexham,

Gateshead v Forest Green, Grimsby v

Nuneaton, Kidderminster v Mansfield,

Macclesfield v Dartford, Newport County v

Lincoln City, Tamworth v Stockport,

Woking v Barrow.

South: Basingstoke Town v Sutton,

Billericay v Truro, Boreham Wood v

Eastleigh, Bromley v Staines, Dorchester v

Eastbourne Borough, Dover v

Farnborough, Havant & Waterlooville v

Chelmsford, Maidenhead v Tonbridge

Angels, Salisbury v AFC Hornchurch,

Welling v Bath City, Weston-super-Mare v

Hayes & Yeading.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Banbury v St Albans,

Bedford v Leamington, Bedworth v

Bideford, Cambridge City v Bashley,

Chesham v St Neots, Frome v AFC

Totton, Gosport Borough v Barwell, Hemel

Hempstead v Chippenham, Hitchin v

Redditch, Stourbridge v Arlesey,

Weymouth v Kettering.

Division One South & West: Bridgwater v

Hungerford, Cinderford v Paulton Rovers,

Didcot v Yale, Evesham v Sholing,

Mangotsfield v Cirencester, North Leigh v

Bishops Cleeve, Poole Town v Clevedon,

Shortwood v Wimbome, Swindon

Supermarine v Merthyr Town, Tiverton v

Abingdon Utd, Winchester City v Taunton

Town.

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bemerton HH v

Verwood, Bournemouth Poppies v AFC

Portchester, Hamworthy Utd v Alton,

Moneyfields v GE Hamble, New Milton v

Totton & Eling, Newport IoW v Lymington

Town, Romsey v Pewsey Vale.

SL Cup, first round: Downton v Alresford.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE

PREMIER LEAGUE

Senior Division: Bournemouth Sports v

Hamble Club, Clanfield v Winchester

Castle, Colden Common v Locks Heath,

Fleetland s v AFC Aldermaston, Hedge

End Rangers v Overton, Liss Athletic v

AFC Stoneham, Otterbourne v University

of Portsmouth, Paulsgrove v QK

Southampton, Sporting BW v Liphook.

Combination: AFC Stoneham v AFC

Aldermaston, Hamble Club v Overton,

Liphook v Colden Common, QK

Southampton v Hedge End Rangers,

Winchester Castle v Otterbourne.

FRIENDLIES

Broughton v Braishfield (Village Rec),

Lyndhurst v East Cowes Vics.

Sunday, August 19

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Wigan v Chelsea (1.30), Man City v

SAINTS (4.00).



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Hockey girls 'can turn bronze to gold'

GREAT Britain hockey coach Danny Kerry believes Olympic bronze should spur on the women's team to win a world-level event in the future.

In order to create and sustain that success he believes hockey has to become the country's premier female team sport but is confident the plans put in place will help do that.

Having had a night to assess the achievement of winning only the second bronze medal by a British women's team – the only other coming 20 years ago – Kerry feels their ambition should know no bounds.

"I've made it clear to these guys that you shouldn't narrow things," he said.

"Your vision should be to be inspired by the likes of cycling and rowing and sailing. If you think small you only ever achieve small.

"I will probably upset a few people but I think women's hockey can be – and should be – the premier female team sport in the country.

"Our organisation has put an amazing amount of time and energy into capitalising on that and you have to have that kind of vision.

"Whether it is me or someone else leading that in the future only time will tell but I think we can do it.

"It won't necessarily be as quick as some of the other sports because there are a lot of established teams but why not have that same ambition and desire."

Unlike the players, some of whom had very little sleep having gone out to celebrate, Kerry had a relatively quiet night.

And the best thing about winning a medal is that he is now able to relax for a while.

"My body just shut down. I laid on my bed and looked at my phone and it has gone berserk with messages and I thought 'I can't do that now'," he added.

"Then, normally you wake up and your mind is straight away thinking 'What's the next thing?' but this morning it was a nice comfortable 'Ooh, this is nice' feeling.

"I've not had that sensation in 18 months to

two years. I hope there is more of that to come."

The same cannot be said of the team, however, with captain Kate Walsh revealing the players planned to make the most of their celebrations.

"The last 12 hours have been a bit of a whirlwind and I think the maximum anyone has had is four hours' sleep – although some of us have not slept at all," said the 32-year-old three-time Olympian.

"I think it will continue like that for the next few days as we soak it all in."

"Karen Brown is our assistant coach (and a 1992 bronze medallist) and she said to me 'Make sure you take it all in and remember it for the rest of your life' and that is what we are going to do, soak it all in."

Reading team-mate Alex Danson admitted she had a sleepless night but it was not for want of trying.

"I stared at my ceiling and I saw 4.45am and I knew my alarm was going off at 6.30am and I was thinking 'Please sleep'," said the 27-year-old, who scored the opening goal in their 3-1 bronze medal victory over New Zealand.

"But I kept checking my medal was still there because this has just been the proudest moment in my entire life."

Danson has ambitions to be a teacher outside of her hockey life and hopes the team's success will inspire the next generation of players.

"The reason I want to teach is I was completely inspired by my PE teacher when I was at school," she said.

"My PE teacher loved sport and she loved hockey and I remember from the moment I went into my first PE class I thought it was the best thing ever."

"Everything that she was I wanted to be."

"It's an unbelievable honour to have a medal around our necks but part of our work must be about inspiring the next generation and I think that's something that these Games have encapsulated so perfectly."

AUSSIES SHOW WHY THEY'RE TOP DOGS



EMOTION: Great Britain's Ashley Jackson is consoled by Dan Fox, right, after losing in the bronze medal match.

Great Britain 1 Australia 3

GREAT Britain's men finished their Olympic hockey campaign empty-handed after losing the bronze medal play-off against world number ones Australia.

Defensive errors cost them in their own circle while a failure to properly test goalkeeper Nathan Burgers at the other end meant they came up short in their medal quest.

While they could not match the feat of the women in securing a podium place the squad, who included Winchester's Rob Moore, did at least restore some pride after their 9-2 semi-final battering by Holland.

Australia scored with virtually their first shot on goal and it will not be one James Fair will want to see again.

Simon Orchard's shot from the top of circle was powerful but the goalkeeper got a hand to it yet failed to keep it out.

More confusion in the home defence presented Kieran Govers with two chances to shoot after breaking into right of the D but he fluffed both his attempts.

Six minutes from the interval GB drew level with 19-year-old Harry Martin, who has had a good tournament, driving at the Kookaburras' defence and winning a penalty corner.

Instead of shooting, as is usually his trait, Ashley Jackson slipped the ball back towards its injector and defender Iain Lewers swept home only his second international goal.

Glenn Turner somehow got off a shot while prone on the floor which resulted in a penalty corner late in the half but Chris Ciriello flicked wide.

The Australia forward drew a close-range save from Fair early on after the break while Matt Daly did the same at the other end to Burgers.

GB lost Ali Wilson to the sin-bin for five minutes for preventing Australia breaking through on goal by illegally stopping the aerial pass above his shoulder.



While he was off Australia retook the lead when Govers' deflected penalty corner found Jamie Dwyer and although Fair saved his first shot he could not keep out the rebound.

Fair came to his side's rescue again with a reaction save to palm away Russell Ford's snap-shot but when he could only bat Dwyer's shot into the air Govers volleyed home a third from close range.

GB withdrew Fair with five minutes to go to put on an extra outfield player but despite it giving them almost total domination of possession they could not fashion a breakthrough.

MEDAL
MISS: Rob Moore.

BRONZE MEDAL IS SWEET FOR DANSON – SEE PAGE 22



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



SCHOFIELD GETS IT RIGHT ON THE DAY

Hampshire canoe ace walks away with bronze

JON SCHOFIELD bounced back from what he described as the worst day of his career to snatch bronze in the K2 200m Olympic final on Saturday.

Hampshire-born Schofield, from Petersfield, and partner Liam Heath were not at their best in the preliminary rounds earlier in the week and qualified fifth fastest through to the final.

But on the big day they found their best form when they needed it most, snatching third place on the line in a race won by the Russia duo of Yuri Postrigay

and Alexander Dyachenko, writes **CHARLIE TALBOT-SMITH**.

And after a night of soul-searching for the pair, who have won European gold for the last three years in a row, Schofield conceded that bronze was as much as they deserved on the day.

"We had a pretty tough night before the race and so we went away and knew that we had to refocus and get a good start in the final," he said.

"There was a tough headwind which doesn't sound like much but in canoeing is a lifetime when you're pushing as hard as you can and your muscles are screaming at you, we did everything we

could. I know it might sound silly because this is the Olympics and it's an amazing experience, but I would say Friday was the most horrible day of my career, we really raced badly, but we bounced back and produced when we needed to.

"I'm really proud that Liam managed to turn it round as well because in the pairing he sets everything up for me so for us to come back and put together the race that we did makes me very proud indeed.

"It was a big disappointment but we covered it up and ultimately we were the third best crew on the water and we're delighted."

On a fine day for canoe sprinting there were yet more medal joy for Team GB as Ed McKeever took gold in the K1 200m event in the first race of the morning.

And Schofield admitted that he and Heath had taken a lot of inspiration from their teammate's superb victory just minutes before their own race.

"Ever since 200m became an Olympic discipline we have all medalled so it was almost business as usual to see Ed come out and medal and we just knew we had to do our bit," he added.

"We have all been living in each other's pockets, doing the same training schedule and to see Ed's

amazing performance gave us great confidence in the training and what we had inside ourselves."

● **Lloyds TSB, proud supporter of Team GB and proud partner of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Get closer to the Games at lloydstsb.com/london2012**



Mexico make history with London Gold

Brazil 1 Mexico 2

BRAZIL'S Olympic curse struck again today as Mexico secured arguably the greatest football triumph in their history by winning London 2012 gold at Wembley.

Oribe Peralta wrote his name into Mexican folklore with a deadly double against the five-time world champions, who many believed were destined to end their agonising wait for Olympic glory.

But, despite Hulk pulling a goal back in stoppage-time and Chelsea new boy Oscar missing a last-gasp sitter, Brazil were a shadow of the attacking force that had smashed in 15 goals en route to the final and displayed the defensive frailty that has long dogged them.

In sharp contrast, Mexico completed their transformation from one of the most notorious also-rans in world football to a side capable of delivering on the biggest stage. And they could not have picked a better time than in front of 86,162 at the home of football in what was their first truly global major final.

The game promised to be a goal-fest, with Brazil having scored three times in all five of their matches and their opponents netting seven in their last two.

But few would have predicted the fastest goal ever in a FIFA tournament final – also thought to be the quickest in Olympic history – after just 28 seconds.

Manchester United right-back Rafael's hospital pass was intercepted by Javier Aquino and the ball broke for Peralta to race goal-ward unchallenged and score.

It wasn't the first time Brazil had trailed at London 2012 and they might have levelled in the 13th minute when Thiago Silva headed Neymar's free-kick over.

Brazil made an attacking change just past the half-hour mark when midfielder Alex Sandro was withdrawn for Porto team-mate Hulk.

And the substitute almost caught out Corona with a piledriver from nearly 35 yards but the goalkeeper recovered well to foil Leandro Damiao's rebound.

Hulk was making a real impact, winning a free-kick that Romulo ultimately glanced wide in first-half stoppage-time.

The urgency Brazil had lacked arrived straight from the restart as Neymar nearly planted a screamer in the top corner.

Santos star Neymar skied a good chance from 10 yards out but Mexico weathered the storm and were unlucky not to double their lead in the 64th minute after another defensive howler. Marco Fabian robbed Thiago Silva and although Gabriel's block set up an overhead kick Fabian smashed against the crossbar.

Leandro Damiao had a good chance nicked off his toe and powered a header wide from a corner before Peralta rightly had a second goal ruled out for offside.

Fabian almost scored legitimately when he nodded over Jorge Enriquez's flick-on from a corner but made amends 15 minutes from time with a free-kick that Peralta netted with a bullet header thanks to simply non-existent marking.

Thiago Silva failed to connect properly from a flick on with a corner but Brazil were showing little sign of a remarkable comeback and even began arguing amongst themselves, with Rafael and Juan Jesus involved in a row.

However, they should have staged an amazing comeback in stoppage-time, Hulk rifling on to a long ball from Marcelo and ricing into the net before crossing for an unmarked Oscar to somehow nod wide from six yards.

BRONZE: Great Britain's Jon Schofield, left, and Liam Heath on the podium.



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Daley is back in business

TOM DALEY bounced back from the shock of his near-exit last night to qualify for the final of the men's platform.

The 18-year-old showed his medal credentials on Friday with a solid, rather than spectacular, display to qualify fourth with a score of 521.10.

And after the scare of the preliminary round, when Daley scraped through in 15th, his morning's work offered plenty of reassurance that his confidence had not taken a decisive blow.

While he failed to nail the high scorer he will need to stand on the podium he showed signs of his quality and a willingness to fight when he secured his highest score of the semi-final on his back three-and-a-half somersault – the leap he completely bombed the previous night.



KEEPING COOL: Team GB Daley in the shower between dives.

The former world champion's hopes of a first Olympic medal did, however, look restricted to bronze after Chinese duo Qiu Bo and Lin Yue produced a masterclass.

Qiu, who stole away Daley's world title 12 months ago, qualified in first place after twice attracting 10s in a score of 563.55.

Compatriot Lin Yue also notched a 10 as he finished 21.75 points further back and 20.70 up on of Daley.

The Plymouth-diver returned to the Aquatics Centre less than 12 hours after his poor display knowing he needed to up his game.

With two dives remaining he was safely placed in seventh but, with his back three-and-a-half somersaults – which drew a score as low as three the previous night – to come, some nerves remained inside the Aquatics Centre.

There need not have been as Daley responded in fine style with 8.5s to grab his highest points score of the morning and virtually assure a place into the next round.

He finished confidently with nines to ensure he can rest easier ahead of the Saturday night 8.30pm final, when all scores are wiped – and when the eyes of the host nation were set to fall on him.



THE best seat in the house for London 2012 may well be the living room sofa in front of the box, with remote control in one hand and any drink you wish to consume in the other.

But there is nothing quite like 'being there'.

Having got lucky during the first ticket ballot several months ago I was fortunate enough to take the family to a day at the sailing in Weymouth, an afternoon at the volleyball and a morning in the basketball arena.

With the slogan for London 2012 being 'Inspire a Generation', it was only right that we took our 18-month-old son.

He may not remember it in years to come but we have the pictures to prove it and his entry only cost £1.

Bargain.

First up was a sunny day on the Nothe in Weymouth after claiming some of the first sailing tickets sold for any Olympics.

There was plenty of local interest.

Southampton-born Iain Percy was sailing in the Star class with his best pal Andrew 'Bart' Simpson, while Lymington's Ben Ainslie was competing in his Finn.

We now know how they finished following the incredible drama on the Solent last Sunday afternoon, Percy just missing out on defending gold with Simpson – a silver at least ensuring a third Olympic podium finish – before Ainslie won a sensational fourth Olympic gold.

If there is a criticism of the Nothe it is that we did not have the best vantage point of Ainslie and Percy.

There is more than one Olympic course in Weymouth and, from where we were sat, even the strongest binoculars would not have been enough to see Team GB's most successful sailors in action.

But once security had removed the labels from our emptied drink bottles (they did not bear the logos of Olympic sponsors), the £35 admission gave us an excellent view of Southampton Solent University's Kate MacGregor and the rest of the Match Racing girls, including Kate's sister Lucy, beating Portugal in their Elliot 6m.

We also witnessed a disappointing start for our 49er pair, Southampton-born Ben Rhodes and Steve Morrison.

But the atmosphere was terrific...

GOING FOR IT: Joel Freeland of Britain shoots in the second half of their men's basketball preliminary round match. Top: A view of the basketball arena at the Olympic Park with Australia taking on Great Britain during the London 2012 Wheelchair Rugby test event.



Simon Walter

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apart from a brief spat between an English group too easily aggravated by a French party blocking their view.

Flags from Sweden, Finland and the USA, as well as the French Tricolor, helped break up the waves of Union Jacks.

And a few weeks after returning from his circumnavigation of the

globe in the Volvo Ocean Race, double Olympic silver medallist Ian Walker made the trip down from Warsash to explain the goings on in layman's terms via the big screen.

Other famous sailors present included Sir Robin Knox-Johnston.

It seemed to me that many of the crowd were not sailing aficionados but were simply there to sample the Olympic experience and enjoy a day out with a picnic by the sea, much like ourselves.

For those who did not fancy sit-

ting down all day, free tours of the historic Nothe fort were provided and it was an excellent idea to have replicas of the boats used by the Team GB crews on site, along with information for the uninitiated.

An even better move was the provision of free sailing lessons by the Royal Yachting Association on Weymouth beach last week.

There was certainly more leg room on the Nothe than there was at Earls Court for the men's volleyball the following day.

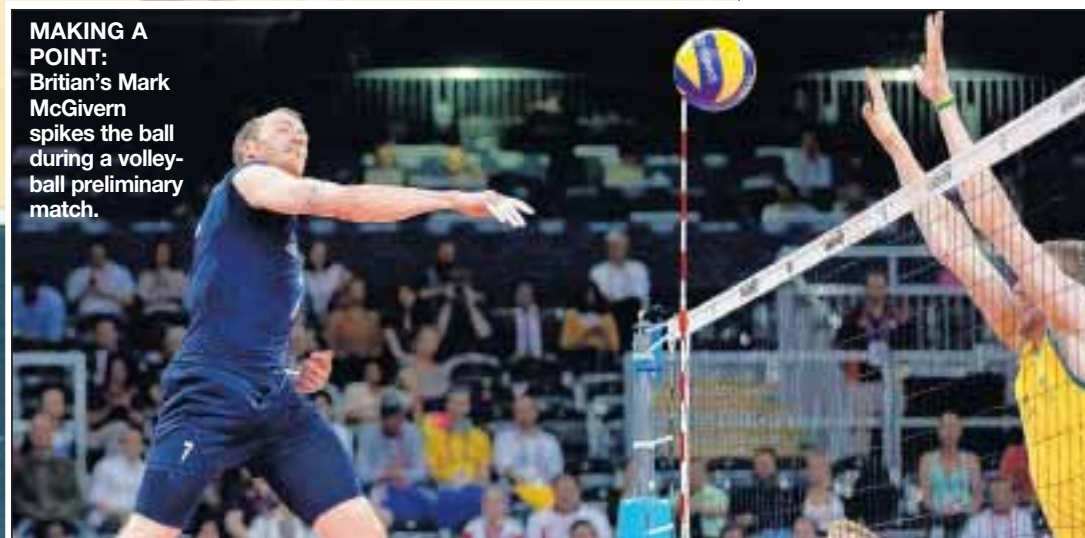
ONE OF THE GREAT SIGHTS OF THE GAMES - SEE PAGES 22-23



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



MAKING A POINT: Britain's Mark McGivern spikes the ball during a volleyball preliminary match.



Nothing to beat **BEING** there!



Seeing lots of empty seats was also disappointing, particularly as this was the one venue where we were told we could not bring our son.

But it was a privilege to watch Italy beat Argentina (3-1) and USA demolish Germany (3-0) from such close quarters.

It was no surprise that all four teams reached Wednesday's quarter finals.

The best of the three venues we visited was undoubtedly the bas-

ketball arena, where we saw France beat Lithuania and Australia defeat China in the men's preliminaries.

You could not fail to be impressed by the professionalism of the military as they conducted the security checks at both Earls Court and the Olympic Park.

I had been to Stratford four months earlier to take part in the Olympic Park Run, but the place was now fully landscaped, teeming with people from all corners of the

globe and abuzz with excitement.

At £81 for the three of us, our morning at the basketball was the best value of our three days at the Olympics.

The noise was something else and a shock to Walter jnr, who cried for most of the first quarter.

But he soon settled down – unlike the French and the Lithuanians in attendance.

They had the place rocking.

Basketball is Lithuania's national sport but the world's fifth-ranked



MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB: Team GB mountain biker Liam Killeen. Left: Olympic spectators watch the 49er class racing from Nothe Gardens in Weymouth.

side were surprisingly beaten on this occasion, 82-74 in a thriller.

We could not begrudge the Aussies an 81-61 victory over the Chinese, so disappointing have their Games been.

One feature of these Olympics has been the half-time entertainment at all the venues.

The Bongo Cam has been the most popular, encouraging the audience to 'beat' the drums super-imposed on the big screen.

We were also treated to a set from street dance group Twist and Pulse, former stars of *Britain's Got Talent*, at half-time.

Even the usually irritating Mexican Wave found its rightful place in the Basketball Arena as the NBA stars did their thing.

One thing I am yet to see is a medal-winning Team GB performance.

I hope that changes tomorrow, when mountain biker Liam Killeen attempts to add another cycling medal to our haul at Hadleigh Farm, Essex.

Ed gets an early Christmas

GREAT BRITAIN'S Ed McKeever won Olympic gold at Eton Dorney in the 200 metres kayak sprint.

There was also Saturday bronze medal success for the two-man crew of Jon Schofield and Liam Heath.

McKeever, 28, from Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, led from the start in his race, crossing the line ahead of Spain's Saul Craviotto Rivero and Canada's Mark de Jonge.

Schofield and Heath, both 27, were just behind the gold-winning Russian pair of Yuri Postrigay and Alexander Dyachenko for much of their K2 race 200m contest, and then lost out at the finish to the Belarus crew of Raman Piatrushenka and Vadzim Makhneu in the race for silver.

In the women's K1 200m, Jess Walker, 22, from Hampton Hill, London, made the final but finished in seventh place.

The race was won by New Zealand's young kayaker, 23-year-old Lisa Carrington. The men's 200m canoe sprint was won by Ukraine's Yuri Cheban.

The results took Britain's medal haul in canoeing to four, achieving their pre-Games target. The medals come after Etienne Stott and Tim Baillie won gold in the canoe slalom, while David Florence and Richard Hounslow took silver in the same event.

McKeever's time of 36.346 seconds was slightly slower than yesterday's heats and semi-



finals as he battled a headwind.

He said he woke up this morning at 5am "like a kid at Christmas wanting to open my presents". Above he is pictured with the best possible present.

He added: "I was really just focused on the first two or three strokes and I wanted to nail those and get out cleanly."

Asked later how he felt about being dubbed "Usain Bolt of the water", McKeever said: "Luckily I have the gold medal to go with it now. I am more willing of that tagline." He continued: "I am just so pleased that I could do well. I was really buzzing, in the zone and wanting to do well."

THE GREATEST OLYMPIC SAILOR - SEE PAGES 24-25



LONDON OL

OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"That's really made my day" – Nicola Adams simply sums up her delight at becoming the first woman boxing champion in Olympic history.

"I think if the relay was a single individual event that would be my event, it's much better than the hurdles, I haven't got anything to trip over" – Jack Green tells how he enjoyed his storming leg in the 4x400m semi-final more than his specialist hurdles event which saw him crash out.



"She could make a donkey do anything" – Jane Dujardin reckons the talents of her daughter Charlotte know no bounds after she won gold in individual dressage.

"To lose to her twice in an Olympic Games has been tough. She's not a horrible person so it's hard to hate her or anything like that. But when we are in a race we do push each other" – 200m gold medallist Allyson Felix on her relationship with Veronica Campbell-Brown, champion in Athens and Beijing.

"(Coach) Wang said to me: 'Good job, Chubby. Perfect. Come here! You deserve a hug'. I said: 'No, I deserve a chocolate cake. One this long'" – Chinese gymnast Feng Zhe on his gold medal in the parallel bars.

"It was a real battle between us and the Tunisians. Sometimes it did look like wrestling rather than handball" – Croatian handballer Domagoj Duvnjak.



"In the pub" – Czech canoeist Filip Dvorak after being asked where his next race would be.

"I didn't really get any breakfast in, well I did, but it came out" – Canoeist Rachel Cawthorn tells how nerves got the better of her ahead of the K1 500 metres sprint.

"Absolutely heartbroken.. Them judges have Wrecked my life! From the bottom of my heart I won that fight and there's nothin I can do about it" – boxer Thomas Stalker laments the end of his Olympics.

The sound of the London 2012 has pushed back the frontiers

It is the sound of London 2012.

It starts with a mighty roar and then rises, slowly and evenly at first, like a rocket leaving the launchpad, before soaring to decibel levels which quite possibly have never previously been reached in the field of sporting endeavour, writes FRANK MALLEY.

You really have to be there to appreciate the hairs rise on your arms, the dry catch in your throat and the pride swell in your chest.

The best thing of all is that it is everywhere.

It was there when Jessica Ennis came round the final corner and sprinted for home in the heptathlon 800m to fulfil her role as the golden girl of the London Games.

It was repeated half an hour later when Mo Farah did much the same to win gold in the 10,000m.

Britain's passion for sport has never been in doubt but London 2012 has pushed back the frontiers.

Controlled bedlam

You only had to be in the grounds of the Greenwich Maritime Museum with 23,000 others to feel the warmth for Zara Phillips who won silver in the team eventing along with 51-year-old Mary King and Tina Cook, Nicola Wilson and William-Fox-Pitt, amid the double-barrelled, countrified set in a whooshing, hollering atmosphere which bordered on controlled bedlam.

"We're all being carried along on this wave of craziness," was how Fox-Pitt described it.

You only had to be in the magnificent setting of Hampton Court to witness the crowds, 15-deep in places, half of Surrey it seemed, lining the route of the men's cycling time trial as they propelled Bradley Wiggins to a fourth Olympic



CRAZY: The crowd celebrates as Great Britain's Jessica Ennis, right, wins the Heptathlon.



gold medal after which he admitted: "I'll look back in 10, 15 years and think that was as good as it got."

Make that half a century or more, because these are the Games which have shone a light on the passion, the generosity of spirit, the rich diversity and yes, the organisational talents of Great Britain.

Nine billion? Cheap at the price. There will always be some who moan about the odd bus breaking down and the wait for the javelin train at Stratford International when

80,000 spectators in the Olympic stadium all want to get home at the same time.

But, in truth, the transport has coped admirably and mostly the whingers have evaporated.

Instead, complete strangers have delighted in sharing their experiences in packed carriages or buses.

They tell of the courteous and professional soldiers who have seamlessly calmed security fears in the wake of the G4S shambles.

They tell of astounding feats in sports such as handball and

THIS WEEK'S LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC C

OLYMPICS 2012



The greatest Games

OVATION: GB's men's four of (Andrew Triggs Hodge, Tom James, Pete Reed and Alex Gregory) get the cheers, below.



GOLDEN TRIO: GB's Sir Chris Hoy (above right) with teammates Jason Kenny (centre) and Philip Hindes after they won the team sprint final. Below: Another gold – Bradley Wiggins in the men's individual time trial.

from the two bronzes of Rebecca Adlington, one of the few athletes who admitted she had been adversely affected by the weight of expectation.

Britain's football teams predictably went out at the quarter-final stage, although Hope Powell's women were a delight while they lasted.

In the main, however, after a slow start it has been one sustained ride of glory.

Not least in cycling in which Victoria Pendleton came back from the disappointment of disqualification in the team sprint to win the keirin and where the men's and women's team pursuit teams garnered gold.

No question, however, about the highlight on the cycle track.

That was the night Sir Chris Hoy equalled Sir Steve Redgrave's tally of five Olympic golds, winning the team sprint with Jason Kenny and Philip Hindes.

It was a night on which Prime Minister David Cameron and royal Olympic groupies, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge along with Prince Harry, joined 6,000 fans on their feet in the velodrome to punch the air and roar themselves hoarse to bring Hoy home.

Entranced a nation

In truth, if health and safety had turned up with a decibel counter they would have shut the place down.

Yet these Games, despite holding so much more promise for Britain, will have to go some to eclipse the night its golden girl Jess and Mo entranced a nation.

"What a night! I think it shows we should always have the Olympic Games in London," said former Olympian Brendan Foster.

There's a thought to send shudders down the spine of the budget men.

Yet consider this. When, in peacetime, has Britain demonstrated the unity, the pride, the empathy, the sheer joie de vivre that it has shown over the past 10 days?

That is what sport can do for a nation. That is why London 2012 is on its way to being the greatest Olympic Games of them all.

Don't believe it?

All you need to do is listen.

OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"So yes it's out there, me and @JasonKenny107 are dating. Been a little while now just didn't want the distraction before the games" – double gold medallist cyclist Laura Trott confirms she is in a relationship with fellow champion Jason Kenny.



"We come from a tiny village in Belarus. We want to give the money to our family, and we want to do some repair work" – Canoeist Aliaksandr Bahdanovich tells of the impact his silver medal will have on his life.

"I came out and felt like dancing. I was buzzing as the crowd erupted and chanted my name. It might have been a boring fight, but the crowd kept behind me and pushed me through to the win" – Martin Stammer on his Olympic Taekwondo debut.

"IT'S ON!! We in the FINAL! Team management Protested as Ofentse was taken out and we have been given Lane 9!! Thank you Lord! Emotional roller coaster!" – double amputee Oscar Pistorius expresses his delight after South Africa were given a berth in 4x400m final after a collision in the semi-final left them unable to finish it.

"There are no prospects for Russian handball. None whatsoever" – Russia handball women's coach Evgeny Trefilov after the silver medallists from Beijing crashed out of the women's handball competition at the quarter-final stage.

"I'm not really a fighter – I'm more of a lover I guess" – Keri-anne Payne struggles with a physical and niggly open water swim.



"Sometimes you can give everything and it is not enough. It is like a love story. You can give a lot and the other person still walks away" – France's women football coach Bruno Bini after losing the third-place play-off with Canada.

judo and gymnastics and memories they will treasure forever.

Such as the day at Dorney Lake when Britain's men's coxless four, Pete Reed, Andrew Triggs Hodge, Tom James and Alex Gregory plus the women's lightweight sculls pair, Kath Copeland and Sophie Hosking, won gold within half an hour of each other.

Then Zac Purchase and Mark Hunter followed up with silver in the lightweight men's sculls and admitted they were "gutted".

So were Southampton sailor Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson when they could only manage second place in the Star category at Weymouth

and Portland.

Gutted with silver. That is the measure of what is happening at London 2012. The bar has been raised.

Swirling momentum

The momentum is swirling from venue to venue.

Everywhere there are Britons who believe they can and must win because they want to be part of a phenomenon which has the power to change the nation.

There have been disappointments.

Britain's women swimmers promised much but delivered little apart

GAMES COVERAGE - SEE PAGES 16-31



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Bronze means sweet moment for Danson

WHILE many of Great Britain women's hockey squad had a big night out on the back of their bronze medal win, striker Alex Danson rewarded herself with a packet of sweets.

The 27-year-old, pictured, who scored the goal against New Zealand which set GB on their way to a first bronze medal for 20 years and only the second in their history, gave up the treat eight months ago.

But having secured an Olympic medal it was the first thing on her list of things to do. "I gave up sweets in January – that is my bad thing – so I had a little packet to eat at the end of the game and I'm looking forward to a bit of relaxation," she told Press Association Sport.

"I'm going to celebrate with some Haribo, I'm really rock and roll!"



Danson was a key component to Britain's success, finishing joint top-scorer with team-mate Crista Cullen on five goals.

She picked herself up, as did the whole team, from total devastation after the semi-final defeat to Argentina to lead the line brilliantly against the Black Sticks.

"I've gone from my most miserable to my most happy in 48 hours," added the Reading forward, who has ambitions to be a PE teacher outside her hockey career.

"Sport is the most powerful thing, it does make you feel so bad but it also makes you feel so incredible.

"The best thing about sport is how it unites us all and brings us all together.

"We didn't want to let ourselves down or let anyone else down, we wanted to make everyone proud.

"I can't believe we are Olympic medallists. London promised to be an incredible Games and it has blown away every expectation we have had.

"It was the most incredible environment I've played hockey in."

It was one of the great sights of a truly great Olympics.

A grass bank in Weymouth absolutely packed with 16,000 supporters, many of them waving flags.

Though there were pockets of fans cheering for other nations, the vast majority were very much behind Ben Ainslie.

And they were the ones celebrating, on what has become known as 'Ben's Nevis', as Ainslie won his fourth historic gold medal.

The red, white and blue of the Great Britain flags have rarely been waved with so much excitement.

But those scenes have been repeated at many other Olympic venues.

Steve Smith, from Somerset, said that Ainslie, pictured below, was his 'all-time hero' and had been on the edge of his seat nervously watching the medal race.



He said: "I just felt like I needed counselling when he got half way through."

He added: "He is the greatest ever sailor and the greatest ever hero."

Mr Smith said he hoped that Ainslie would inspire a new generation of sailing stars as he himself had been inspired by Ainslie.

Every time Ainslie's name was mentioned on the commentary cheers, screams and shouts almost drowned it out.

Mr Smith said he had felt so upset for the Star sailors, Southampton-born Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson, but added: "It was so nice to hear them say they could hear us cheering them on."

Friend Simon Martin said: "Hopefully Ben will be lots of youngsters' hero and inspire them."

Dressed in a Union flag jacket, Rupert Taylor from Oxford was determined to show his patriotic side.

He said: "The crowds were incredible. I honestly don't think there's a country in the world that does it better than us.

I felt terrified during Ben's race. I felt there was a chance of not quite making gold.

"I'm so happy Ben came out and did what he did."

Weymouth-born Richard Philpott said that Ainslie was a 'fantastic fighter'.



GB's red, white and

He said: "All week he's come from behind. He's been dogged and he's a true Brit."

He added that he had come back to see Weymouth in its 'full majesty'.

Mr Philpott said: "I'm so proud to come back and see my home town in its glory.

"I'm immensely proud – it's just beautiful."

Ainslie lit a red flare and

received a standing ovation complete with singing of Rule Britannia as he stood in front of the home crowd.

Not that everyone has enjoyed all the flag-waving.

Morrissey, the Los Angeles-exiled former singer with 1980s band The Smiths, this week delivered a withering, contrarian view of the Olympics.

"I am unable to watch the

Olympics due to the blustering jingoism that drenches the event. Has England ever been quite so foul with patriotism?" he wrote in a letter to his online fanzine *True To You*.

"The 'dazzling royals' have, quite naturally, hijacked the Olympics for their own empirical needs, and no oppositional voice is allowed in the free press.

"It is lethal to witness.

"As London is suddenly promoted as a super-wealth brand, the England outside London shivers beneath cutbacks, tight circumstances and economic disasters.

"Meanwhile the British media present 24-hour coverage of the 'dazzling royals', laughing as they lavishly spend, as if such cov-

THE GREATEST OLYMPIC SAILOR - SEE PAGES 24-25



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



blue army

erage is certain to make British society feel fully whole.

In 2012, the British public is evidently assumed to be undersized pigmies, scarcely able to formulate thought."

Considering, with the Olympic cauldron, There Is A Light That Never Goes Out, you might have thought the Games would appeal to the 53-year-old Mancunian.

A case of Bigmouth Strikes

Again indeed

DELIGHT:

Simon Martin and Steve Smith, all smiles.

Worrying news for Saints - as cyclists inspire Man United

MANCHESTER United's head of fitness and conditioning Tony Strudwick believes the staggering achievements of Britain's Olympic cyclists prove sports science will continue pushing back the boundaries of brilliance.

Sir Alex Ferguson and his backroom team have been challenged like never before to ensure United are ready for their Premier League opener at Everton on August 20.

With his squad returning at four different times - full-back Rafael will still be going in the Olympic final at Wembley on Saturday - Ferguson will be taking a close look at the relative progress of each individual player before he selects his starting line-up at Goodison Park.

Strudwick will not be picking that team. But he will have measured fitness, in a manner few would have believed possible two decades ago.

He has been impressed by the work of Team Sky who guided Bradley Wiggins to Tour de France victory and also several members of the Great Britain and other Olympic teams.

Team Sky and the GB team are both led by performance director Dave Brailsford.

"Team Sky have done it so well," said Strudwick.

"They work on what they can control. They do the simple things well and pay attention to detail.

"I can see no reason why football won't keep evolving either. We are still pushing the boundaries of human existence.

"World records still get broken in the 100m, so why should football be different?"

Appointed in 2007 following three years working with Mark Hughes at Blackburn, Strudwick has been monitoring United's players through every step of their 22,000 mile pre-season globetrotting exercise.

"Every player wears a GPS monitor every day, including matches," said Strudwick.

"Information comes from that every half a second. You literally have thousands of bits of information - and that is only one piece of kit."

Over time, profiles are built up on every player - number and length of sprints, turns, tackles, endurance - all aimed at working

out how close they are to their optimum at any given moment.

And there is more to come.

"From an intensity point of view, the game has moved on," said Strudwick.

"There are more runs, more passing sequences. Since 2002, the number of sprints in the Premier League has doubled.

"That is quantifiable data, from which you can ask more informative questions."

Already the information is so great it has to be filtered.

"You run the risk of drowning in a sea of data," said Strudwick.

"If I wanted to, I could drop a 20-page dossier on the coaches' desk every morning. "You cannot allow yourself to become too data driven so we have systems in place that allow us to use the meaningful stuff."

As scientific advances have continued, so have the training schedules.

There was a time when the first part of pre-season would be a sequence of long runs, with actual football being eased into the process, often over several weeks.

Some coaches still subscribe to those methods.

Not Strudwick, who prefers to concentrate on the core elements of matchday.

"Sports science has allowed us to break down what happens in a game - then you can train like it," said Strudwick.

"I always used to work off players having 400 minutes of match time per pre-season.

"But the key component is hitting that last 15 minutes of a Premier League game. That is when most goals are scored, when players have switched off and have to work hard to get the ball.

"In the past, players might have been undercooked because they have had five lots of 75 minutes.

Now we try and expose them to 90.

"It used to make me laugh when people would say 'he is all right to sit on the bench'. How could they know?"

"Now we have the tools to back it up. Fitness and technical coaches are more confident in saying 'he is ready'."

WIGGINS



NOTHING BEATS BEING THERE - SEE PAGES 18-19



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"The one thing with an endurance sport, we aren't blessed with incredible bodies because we have to be very skinny. We have to look very lean and I think one of the great things about being an athletic sprinter like Chris Hoy is that you've got an amazing body to show off. We just look like Rodney Trotter. We don't look at all athletic" – Tour de France winner and Olympic time-trial champion Bradley Wiggins.

"I saw him after the mixed zone and he gave me a big hug which is unheard of for Toni, so I think he is happy" – Jessica Ennis on her mentor Toni Minichiello.



"The way Mo Farah won... I do 400m repetitions in my training and when I'm completely fresh I can run it in 57 seconds and his last lap after 9,600m was 53 seconds. It's just unbelievable fitness. It gave me a boost coming into today. The momentum the team's had the last couple of days has been so good" – Andy Murray takes inspiration from Mo Farah on his way to beating Roger Federer in straight sets to claim gold.

"I'm very happy for Andy too because he's had a tough last few years – I mean, on a very, very high level, let's not feel too sorry for him, he's had a wonderful career already. I'm happy for him he got the gold today" – Federer.



"The true sign of a champion is TO NEVER GIVE UP!!! ANDY MURRAY THE WORLD CHAMPION What an inspiration! GO GREAT BRITAIN AND

SCOTS ROCK!" – tweet from former *Baywatch* and *Knight Rider* star, David Hasselhoff.

"That race was certainly one of the most nerve-wracking experiences of my life but thankfully I came through" – Ben Ainslie, after claiming gold in the Finn to become the most successful ever Olympic sailor.

"I didn't rescue the nation from the depths of Napoleon Bonaparte, but you do the best you can do in your style of racing" – Ainslie again.

"You're never 100 per cent confident sailing on the Nothe. We didn't get it right. Fair play to the Swedes, they had a great regatta and did a great job. So did the Brazilians (who won bronze)" – Sailor Andrew Simpson, forced to settle for silver in the Star class.

BEN HOPES GOLDEN

Britain's medal hero aims to boost image of sailing



AWESOME FOURSOME: Ben Ainslie celebrates winning a fourth Olympic gold medal at Weymouth and Portland.



ARM IN ARM: Ben Ainslie with his Dutch girlfriend and fellow Olympic sailor Marit Bouweester. Below – Ainslie meets the Duchess of Cambridge in Weymouth this week.



FOUR-TIME Olympic gold medallist Ben Ainslie hopes he can use his success to get more people into sailing.

The 35-year-old Lymington-based sailor has replaced Denmark's legendary Paul Elvstrom as the most successful sailor in Games history, writes **SIMON PEACH**.

Ainslie overcame the eight-time Olympian's countryman Jonas Hogh-Christensen to top the Finn class podium and hopes it can help inspire a new generation of sailors.

"I think the biggest misconception with sailing is that it is an elitist sport," he said.

"There are so many clubs around the country, not even on the coast but on lakes and reservoirs, and they all have initiatives to get kids into sailing."

"The RYA (Royal Yachting Association) have a load of initiatives for all the clubs so if you rock up to your local club, you'll find it is a lot easier than you think to get into the sport."

"And it is great because at the grass-

roots level of the sport it is really inclusive, a lot of fun and a real family sport for kids and parents and you can take it as far as you want.

"I am going to have to go away and think about that but, yeah, we should do something to get more people into the sport and really make the most of the opportunity we've got with sailing being one of our top sports."

Ainslie admits it is "very unlikely" he will get in the Finn again after what looks set to be his last Games, but he hopes that wider sailing success for Great Britain will follow.

"We're very good at Olympic sailing," he said.

"We have been good at single-handed offshore sailing in the past and it would be nice if we could branch out into offshore sailing, the America's Cup, other types of racing and be successful in that."

"The America's Cup is the next goal. I have a new team, BAR (Ben Ainslie Racing), and also sailing with ORACLE Team USA in the America's Cup next year."

"Rio [de Janeiro 2016 Olympics] is way too far ahead [to think about]."

"It can never get any better than this so whether I'd want to go through it, I don't know."

There is talk that Ainslie's CBE could be followed up by a knighthood for his Olympic achievements.

The sailor himself, though, was keen for his coach to take the plaudits.

"In regards to honours and those sorts of things, the one person that should actually be mentioned is my coach, David Howlett," Ainslie said.

"This is his fourth gold medal as a coach and he has been involved in numerous other challenges."

"If anyone should be getting the plaudits, it is him."

GAMES ARE SUCH AN INSPIRATION - SEE PAGE 4



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



YEARS WILL PAY OFF

Life and times of the greatest Olympic sailor of them all ...



1977: Born on February 5 in Macclesfield, Lancashire. His father, Roddy, sailed in the first Whitbread Round the World Race.

1996: Having won the European Championships and finished third in the Laser World Championships, he goes on to win silver at the Olympic Games in Atlanta aged 19.

1997: Finishes third in the Laser World Championships and takes bronze at the European Championships.

1998: Wins both the Laser European and World Championships.

1999: Ainslie is named British Yachtsmen of the Year and World Sailor of the Year, having won the Europeans and World Championships yet again.

2000: Sees off competition from Brazil's Robert Scheidt to win Laser gold at the Sydney Olympics. Also wins Laser Europeans and finishes third in the Laser World Championships. Named British Yachtsmen of the Year and made MBE in New Year Honours list.

2002: After spending 14 months with the 'One World Challenge' America's Cup campaign, Ainslie moves to the Finn class. He wins the first of what prove to be many World Championships in the division and takes the Finn Europeans. Becomes British Yachtsmen of the Year and World Sailor of the Year.

2003: Takes another Finn Gold Cup and another Finn European crown.

2004: Ainslie's dominance of the Finn class continues as he wins a second Olympic gold in Athens, Greece. Also takes the World and European crowns as he is named British Yachtsmen of the Year for a fourth time. Inducted into the Finn Hall of Fame.

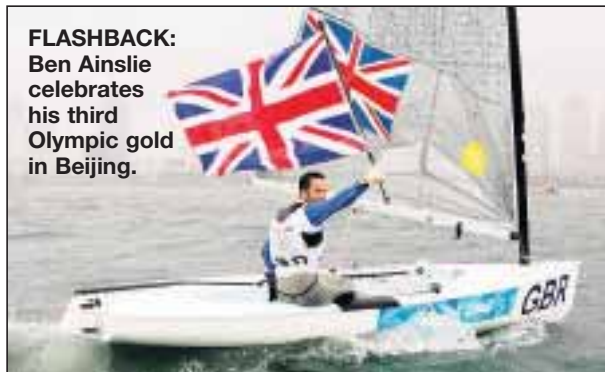
2005: Racks up a fourth successive Finn Gold Cup and receives OBE. He also wins the Finn Europeans.

2008: After re-entering the America's Cup arena with Emirates Team New Zealand, he returns to the Olympic circuit to win a fifth world title, European title and Olympic gold in Qingdao, China. He is named British Yachtsmen of the Year for a fifth time, World Sailor of the Year yet again and made CBE.

2011: Fights off tough competition to be selected for the British sailing squad in the Finn class. Year ends in controversy at the ISAF World Championships in Perth, Australia, where he is involved in an altercation with a media boat.

2012: In January launches Ben Ainslie Racing, a new team that will initially compete in the next edition of the America's Cup World Series along with plans to join ORACLE Racing for the defence of the 34th America's Cup. Having recovered from back surgery, he wins the Finn Gold Cup for a record sixth time in Falmouth, Cornwall. **August 5** - Wins fourth Olympic gold medal, in the Finn class on home waters off Weymouth at the London 2012 Games. With four golds and a silver, Ainslie becomes the most successful sailor in Olympic history.

FLASHBACK: Ben Ainslie celebrates his third Olympic gold in Beijing.



OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"It's also about talent, it's about soul. The Russians are very good at ballet and gymnastics because the Russian soul is about living the music and living the dance" – Synchronised swimmer Natalia Ischenko, dubbed 'Michael Phelps in a skirt'.

"Jeden, dwa, trzy (one, two, three)" – chanted by thousands of Polish volleyball fans for every dig, set and spike at Earls Court.

"It can be very intimidating to play in an atmosphere like that. Volleyball in this country has never seen anything like it and I doubt we ever will again" – Team GB's Joel Miller on the rare experience in London 2012 of away supporters (Poland's) outnumbering the hosts.



"As soon as the final was over I said sorry, but Choi said, 'it's OK, I'm glad I got silver'. But 30 minutes later he was saying, 'I hate you'" – South Korea's Jin Jong-oh, who came from nowhere to beat compatriot Choi Young-rae to gold in the 50m pistol.

"This is a complete miscarriage of justice. We all know why the tests are done, but this has nothing to do with this rule. In the space of six minutes, five people poked at this horse's leg 50 times. This horse was fit to compete. How can five people declare him unfit to compete? How can they ruin someone's Olympic dream? I am ashamed of my sport, I am very much ashamed" – Canadian show jumper Eric Lamaze after team-mate Tiffany Foster's horse Victor was declared ineligible.

"I came here the fittest, leanest, smartest, healthiest boxer I could be but she's the best. There's nothing more I could have done. I could have thrown the kitchen sink and drove a bus into her, but it didn't work" – Britain's Natasha Jonas after defeat at the hands of Irish boxer Katie Taylor.



"I made a mistake, my career is ended here. I did it all myself and on my own head so I assume all the responsibility for what has happened" – Beijing race walk gold medalist Alex Schwazer of Italy after his positive drugs test prevented him from defending his 50km crown.

GB'S RED, WHITE AND BLUE ARMY - SEE PAGES 22-23



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"I'm 99.9 per cent sure I won't be competing there in Rio. How can you top this? This is phenomenal. Glasgow? That's another question" – Sir Chris Hoy after his sixth Olympic gold medal, a British record, rules out defending his title in Rio de Janeiro but may yet make the Commonwealth Games.

"Incredible! We have a full podium of medals just from Otley and Bramhope!! Well done Ali and Johnny! Keep them coming GB!" – Team GB silver medallist cyclist Lizzie Armitstead



hails the gold and bronze success of fellow White Rose county dwellers the Brownlee brothers in the triathlon.

"I'm glad Alistair won, I was cheering him on as I was getting stitches in the medical tent" – Canadian triathlete Simon Whitfield, who won the inaugural gold medal in the sport back in 2000 in Sydney, gives his seal of approval to new champion, Alistair Brownlee.

"I'd love to be in Rio (for the 2016 Olympic Games), but we'll take each year as it comes. We just need a course with a hill in Rio, please" – Alistair Brownlee drops a few hints to Rio 2016 course planners.

"When you medal with people you have a kind of connection and after last year in Daegu we always say hello and try and have a chat in what little English he speaks. He's a nice guy and I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy" – Hurdler Andy Turner after Chinese great Liu Xiang's exit at the first hurdle.

"It's really hard for him. He is one of the best. To have to change your lead leg is hard. It's really sad" – Usain Bolt on Liu.

"I just heard about it I didn't see it. I don't promote violence so sorry to hear that" – Bolt on the bottle incident at the start of his 100m final and the melee as the suspected thrower was removed from the scene.



"I felt fantastic today but my body and my elbow let me down" – javelin thrower Goldie Sayers after failure to qualify.

Dan would love to see handball revolution

HAMPSHIRE athlete Dan McMillan cut an emotional figure as his London 2012 handball journey came to an end this week – but he insists it's so long, not goodbye to the sport.

To a man, the GB handball team had a varied and sacrifice-laden journey to the Olympics.

McMillan, born in Brockenhurst, is a relatively recent convert from American football, picked out by talent recruitment scouts.

That journey culminated in making history at London 2012 as the first-ever GB team to take part in an Olympic Games.

On the playing side of things, their final foray into action ended in similar fashion to their opening four games – a plucky defeat, losing 41-24 to reigning Olympic silver medallists Iceland.

However in that defeat McMillan admitted their London Olympic journey was defined – a journey that he was only too pleased to have been part of.

"It was a really emotional time at the end of the game against Iceland," he said.

"This has been a big part of our lives and the final game really defined our whole journey."

"It was great to play in it. The feelings are mixed though because I am delighted to have been a part of it but it is sad that it has ended."

"I am 30 on the night of the

closing ceremony so I am going to have lots of things to think about what I am going to do next.

"But either way, this has been an amazing journey."

McMillan and co – and the sport at large – now face an uncertain future.

London 2012 has witnessed unparalleled investment in sport with teams like handball created from near-nothing in order to fill host-nation spots at the Games.

With the Games moving on to Rio for 2016, the expectation is that minority sports might be living on borrowed time. McMillan is adamant that should not be the case, but also has his own ready-

made contingency.

"I am going to get involved with American football again a little bit I think but I definitely want to keep playing handball as well," he added.

"We want handball to have a future in this country."

"There has been some dialogue already about what the next move is for the sport and so hopefully the funding will be there."

"I have got a degree in sport management so maybe I could get involved with the sport in some way."

It was also an emotion end for McMillan's team-mate Ciaran Williams this week.

The 24-year-old has been a key player in the Team GB

squad since its inception in 2006 and has put his life

on hold in the pursuit of the Olympic dream.

He missed out on going to university and, along with many members of the squad, spent nights sleeping on a floor in various outposts of Europe after their development programme was hit by funding cuts.

"I have managed to keep it all in for the other games, but it just came spilling out," he said after the loss to Iceland.

"There was no way I was keeping that in, six years of hard work has come to an end now."

"It's the greatest experience of my life."

"That reception at the end there was an absolutely amazing experience."

Iceland coach Gudmundur Gudmundsson has given Great Britain optimism for the future.

"The atmosphere in the Copper Box is fantastic," he said. "This is my fifth Olympics and it's the best atmosphere of all."

"It will take time for Britain. They need to learn from others and don't need to reinvent the wheel."

THIS WEEK'S LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



VIP: The Duchess of Cambridge, right, enjoyed handball action at the Olympics, as did one French supporter, far right.



SPECTACULAR: Great Britain's Christopher Mohr shoots at goal.

"Handball should suit the British, they can fight and they are good at football and rugby. It can become a good sport for them."

Chairman of the British Olympic Association, Colin Moynihan, has called on the government to put its hand in its pocket and help handball grow in the country.

Although Great Britain struggled in both the men's and the women's competition, failing to win a game between them, the sport has been one of the success stories of London 2012.

It has captured the imagination of an unsuspecting British public who had never experienced it before.

The Copper Box has been rocking to capacity in every session and interest in handball around the country has surged, with clubs receiving an unprecedented number of enquiries on how to join.

Figures such as Kelly Holmes and Sebastian Coe have all commented on their new-found love for the sport and Moynihan wants it to get suitable funding to ensure its potential legacy is fulfilled.

"One of my reflections on week one of the Olympics has been the huge pub-

lic support for some of the sports that haven't been headline sports," he said.

"For those of us who went along to support these sports like handball, boxing and fencing, they are now in the public eye in the way some of them have never been, and we need to support those sports."

"A number of them came in because we wanted to see a legacy for these sports."

"Take handball for example. Let's get it rolled out in schools, in local communities, wherever there are facilities in place."

C l i v e Woodward has said he'd like

to see handball as a second sport because of the hand-to-eye co-ordination you have to have and the fitness levels involved and you can see why.

"It's great that the BBC have got behind handball, they got very enthusiastic about it during week one and I hope that part of the sporting legacy I've been talking about is to work with those governing bodies and government to make sure that there is a legacy for all the sports."

"If we can't do something about it as a nation now, then we never will."

"We need to give these inspired children the opportunity to take part."



DAN McMILLAN

OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"Victoria's such a hard-fought opponent and she's dominated the sport for so long. It's been such a difficult challenge and to be able to win the Olympic title for me, it's so special. I've tried so much and worked so hard for a long period of time and I've asked a lot of people around me to do the same so it feels like this is a just reward" – Australia's Anna Meares after pipping Victoria Pendleton to gold.

"I couldn't have done it without them. The amount of money they had to put in when I was younger, taking me here, there and everywhere, and my dad gave up his cricket" – Laura Trott thanks her parents after gold in the omnium.



"I admit that today's game was not up to the mark. They could have scored two, three, four or five goals against Australia, but I think the score 7-0 is too high. I think today was the worst game and I have never seen Pakistan play like this before in my 43-year career" – Pakistan hockey coach Akhtar Rasool Chaudhry, understandably demoralised after a 7-0 beating by Australia.

"I think Charlotte (Dujardin) and I compete for who does the dumbest blonde thing and Carl (Hester) patronises us like children. We have a great time" – Laura Bechtolsheimer discusses the team dynamic in Britain's golden dressage squad.

"At the end of the day it's an Olympic Games. Those five rings mean a lot to people and that can make or break people" – British diver Chris Mears who qualified in a session where several opponents made horrendous mistakes.



"In the rowing races that have gone well (for Team GB), every single one of the athletes has talked about Steve Redgrave. It was such a nice image that he gave to the rest of the world. He is a big champion that is there with his heart. It was so nice" – Italy kayak specialist Josefa Idem, competing in her eighth Olympics.

"We are happy because we have had a good Games and we made it into the semi-final. The crowd were cheering us on and we appreciated it because we want to compete with the Europeans" – Angolan kayak man Fortunato Pacavira whose boat was stationary for a while amid fears they would capsize after being left in their opponents' wake.

GAMES COVERAGE - SEE PAGES 16-31

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LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"A drunken spectator threw a bottle onto the track! I HAVE BEATEN HIM unbelievable" – Dutch judoka Edith Bosch lives up to her name and takes matters into her own capable hands after a bottle was thrown onto the track seconds before the start of the 100m final.



"I'm not suggesting vigilantism but it was actually poetic justice that they happened to be sitting next to a judo player. I think the expression is **ippon**" – Sebastian Coe finds it hard to criticise Bosch's actions.

"Most of these boys have been hard at it for four years, while I've had six or seven months after two years on the lash" – Britain's Ross Murray fails to qualify for the final of the 1,500m but is satisfied with his efforts.

"Oscar is someone special, especially in our event. It's a memorable moment for me to be out here performing with him. He's an inspiration to all of us. He is very special to our sport" – World champion Kirani James explains why he swapped bibs with Oscar Pistorius at the end of their 400m semi-final.

"People have joined in in their millions, and on Saturday we had the greatest single day in British sport. I wasn't sure at that time it was, but 48 hours on I have realised that nothing has ever matched match that in terms of sheer athletic performance and the emotional rollercoaster of that day" – Coe reflects fondly on 'Super Saturday'.

"The first (throw) was so bad, but I came back and showed some character which is good. I will be ready come tomorrow" – British discus thrower Lawrence Okoye after recovering from a first throw which almost



cleaned out an unsuspecting photographer to qualify for the final with his third.

"Our bodies age like dog years. In gymnastics terms she's about 56" – Louis Smith on fellow British gymnast Beth Tweddle, 27, after she claimed bronze in the uneven bars.

"I'd like to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to all the British people for all your support through our first Olympic experience #proudtobebritish" – Women's basketball Julie Page shows her appreciation via Twitter.

Wicks: We did it our way!

VOLLEYBALL star Lucy Wicks' London 2012 adventure is over, but she believes the legacy of their maiden Olympics will live on.

The 27-year-old Poole-based star insisted GB bowed out with their heads held high, especially when you consider the team receive no direct funding from UK Sport.

And having taken the scalp of Algeria at London 2012 Wicks is hoping the Games will be a springboard for bigger and better things for the sport.

"We did this for ourselves, we did it on our own and we have proved to everyone else we can do that," she said.

"We are disappointed not to reach the quarter-finals but the win was a fantastic achievement.

"Everyone has had to make sacrifices to get to this point but they are all worth it.

"We are so happy we are here competing and playing against the very best teams.

"Sometimes just winning a point can be a big morale booster.

"You don't know what the long-term impact will be but hopefully it will put volleyball on the map.

"People will see how much of a team sport it can be and enjoyable it is and we will get more numbers involved."

When Wicks and her colleagues left Earls Court after their final game against Japan holding a homemade banner which read 'thank you', it summed up their heart-warming Olympic campaign.

Self-made and full of effort.

Stories of how the squad have funded their entire training programme themselves have become

commonplace, so it was entirely fitting that their goodbye message was a felt-tipped one on a sheet of paper.

Nothing flash but full of meaning.

The emotion was not over either, with captain Lynne Beattie breaking down in tears in the post-match press conference after an impromptu address from the FIVB president Jozhong Wei saw him tell her she was a credit to her country.

But when the upset surrounding what was, in truth, an expected early

exit has died down, pride will surely be the overriding feeling.

The first-ever Games win over Algeria assured them of a place in British volleyball history, while interest in the sport on the streets has soared.

Volleyball England have reported record numbers of phone calls and website hits, while on a more trivial level, players have seen their twitter followers quadruple as a result of their new-found fame.

"We're just normal people who have tried to do something special,"

livewire libero Maria Bertelli said.

"We don't want this to be the end of the journey. We have dreams to go to Rio in 2016 and we will do everything we can to make sure we are there."

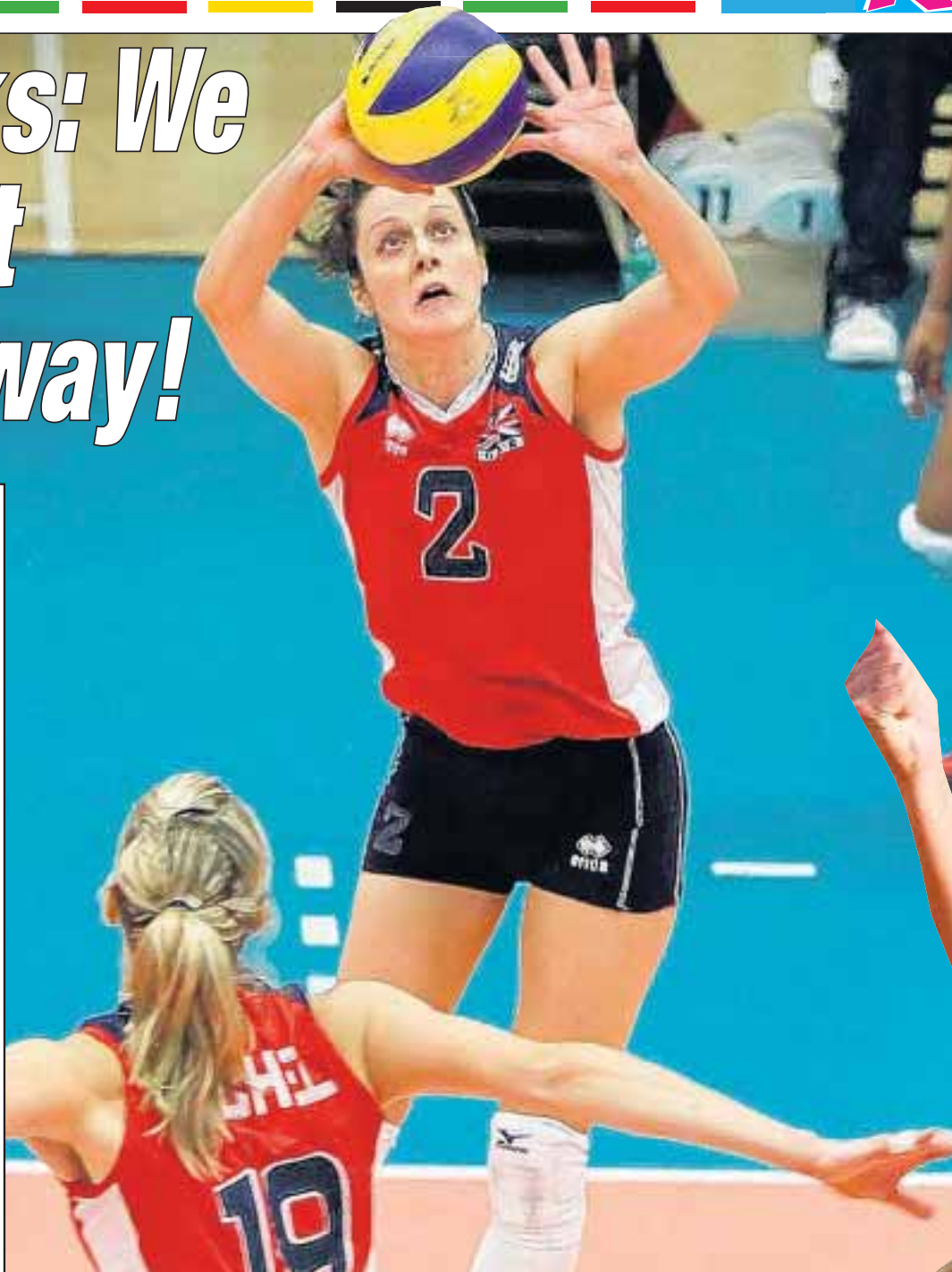
Whether they can achieve that or not remains to be seen.

Without host-nation status the world's 69th-ranked side would have been nowhere near the Games and, for all the magic of their success last week, serious question marks remain.

They are committed to a

training camp in Switzerland next Monday ahead of qualifiers for the European League, but are currently looking at ways to fund flying the players back from their clubs for a world championship preliminary in January.

There are also behind-the-scenes rumblings, with an FIVB congress meeting in three weeks crucial to whether or not they can be rubber-stamped to compete as Great Britain rather than four separate nations in the future.



NOTHING QUITE LIKE BEING THERE! - SEE PAGES 18/19



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Doctor's orders cut no ice with John

STORIES of athletes going the extra mile and making sacrifices in pursuit of the Olympic dream are probably well told by now.

Many members of Team GB who have not been fortunate enough to receive heavy funding have slept on floors, lived away from home and given up their everyday lives in a bid to make London 2012.

However, handballer John Pearce, from Poole went through more than most to get there after defying doctor's orders to recover from a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in just three months.

The 24-year-old winger suffered the injury in an Olympics warm-up competition in April and he was immediately told he would not make this summer's showpiece.

But having already been on a long journey, which included working as a removal man in Norway, he was not

about to let the small matter of a serious knee injury, which can keep footballers out for over a year, get in his way.

After snubbing surgery and embarking on his own private treatment plan, Pearce did the impossible and made the Games, playing a part in every game of Great Britain's campaign in the men's handball competition.

"There were a lot of hard conversations and basically I was told that I wouldn't make the Olympics," he said.

"You try and kid yourself that it won't be that bad and then, when I was told the news a few days later after a scan, our doctor had tears in her eyes, because it was like a death sentence.

"Basically I just ignored her. I just refused to believe that was it and that's why I went and did my own

thing instead of going the normal way recommended.

"It has been tough, I am one of the first people ever that have come back so quickly from an injury like this and I had a scan yesterday and it showed I had no ACL still.

"To get here, I went out to Slovenia and saw what I can only describe as magic healers. I had private therapy sessions in Leicester and basically it was 24 hours a day of rehab and training.

"I didn't have a rest day for three months, I put the electrodes on, went in the gym, got up in the middle of the night to ice my knee, all this sort of stuff. It is the hardest thing I have ever done, all for the goal of the Olympics."

With Great Britain's involvement now over after a torrid time in the Copper Box, Pearce is taking time to assess his options,

with surgery still a possibility. And that has given him opportunity to reflect on an Olympic experience he admits was worth all of the heartache.

"Because I have rushed things and not let my body heal I have to take a bit of time off and see how I feel," he added. "I still have the option of surgery. It is a waiting game, but now I have achieved this goal of playing in the Olympics I can just take a step back and relax.

"Walking out and playing against France, the half-time result against Iceland, the Copper Box in general, every time you walked in you never wanted to leave- they were all highlights.

"It has been an amazing experience and far better than I imagined. You can hear the Olympic Stadium from my room in the Olympic village and whenever a Team GB athlete competes it's just amazing."



JOHN PEARCE

Hard work starts now for Zara

SOUTH coast beach volleyball star Zara Dampney and Shauna Mullin hope the experience of their Olympics debut at Horse Guards Parade can drive them all the way to a second appearance on the sport's biggest stage in Rio in 2016.

The British pair crashed out of London 2012 after one win from four matches in the women's tournament, but more than held their own against some of the world's best players.

The sport's outing in Westminster has raised its profile in this country to a new level, and hopes are high that 2012 will prove a watershed for beach volleyball in this country.

A host-nation berth will obviously not be the preserve of the British in Brazil in four years' time, so to taste the Olympics again Christchurch-born Dampney and Mullin will have to qualify on merit.

That effectively means the Brits will have to crack the world's top 16 between now and the summer of 2016, and Edinburgh-based Mullin believes the experience of playing in London will be key if that dream is to be realised.

"Being at the Olympics was major and we've definitely learned a lot of lessons and there's stuff that we can work towards for Rio," the 27-year-old said.

"We're just trying to soak up everything.

"Zara and I are really quite young in terms of beach volleyball experience, and though it's becoming more of a physical game, so much of it is about experience - knowing when to push in a set, what to do at certain times.

"Although physically and technically we can compete, I think it's the experience side that's going to have to work out over the next four years."

Asked if Rio was a realistic target, Dampney said: "Yes. We need to talk to our coaches a lot and we don't know how it's going to work out in terms of funding.

"We need to regroup, clear our minds and see how we're going to go forward."

The duo believe Team GB's 'Super Saturday' - when six gold medals were won by the host nation in athletics, cycling and rowing - is testament to what can be achieved with the right organisation.

They hope the lessons can be applied to British beach volleyball in the years ahead. "You need to be nurtured, everything needs to be under control, you need structure in terms of all the different elements that go together, it's not just our technical training, everything has to work together," said Dampney.

"Rowing and athletics have had years and years of history, they have people involved in the sport that have been involved for so long - they've been to so many Olympics - that they can pass down their experience to the athletes.

"Beach volleyball obviously doesn't have that history and it does not have the expertise that we need to get those medals. "I guess that's the next step so we can go to the next level."

OLYMPIC quotes of the week

"I have had two races with Tim but you just have to pretend they're cheering for you" - Canadian paddler Adam van Koeverden on the home support for Tim Brabants.

"I know I said I was off twitter til after 2mro but that was PHE-NOMENAL by Jason Kenny. So happy and proud of him, well deserved mate" - Sir Chris Hoy couldn't resist piling the praise on his cycling team-mate.

"We lost it, we won it, we lost it and then finally we won it back. Without this crowd we could never have done it" - Britain's Nick Skelton after winning showjumping gold in an "extra-time" jump-off against Holland.

"This is something we've been working for for so long. It's not just getting a win in the Olympics, but what's more important is to do it with people who are life-long friends. Sometimes a team does something special but you don't really enjoy it because you don't get along. Everyone on this team pulls for each other and to do it with these guys is amazing" - Basketball player Drew Sullivan in tears after Team GB win their first - and only - match of the Olympics.



THE SOUND OF THE GREATEST GAMES - SEE PAGES 20/21

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



ROYALS 2012 fixtures

APRIL

12-15 Gloucestershire, home, LVCC – Gloucestershire 314 (D Balcombe 8-71) & 174 (D Balcombe 3-48, H Riazuddin 3-51), Hampshire 199 (S Katich 74) & 256 (M Bates 87, C Wood 65). Hampshire lost by 33 runs.

19-22 Glamorgan, SWALEC, LVCC – Glamorgan 103-9 dec (D Balcombe 5-33) & 256 (H Riazuddin 5-61), Hampshire 156 (L Dawson 32) & 204-8 (S Ervine 75, J Vince 28). Hampshire won by 2 wickets.

26-29 Leicestershire, h, LVCC – Leics 234 (L Dawson 5-29), Hampshire 217-4 (M Carberry 84no, S Katich 54, S Ervine 41no). Drawn

MAY

2-5 Northants, Northampton, LVCC – Northants 218 (C Wood 4-52) & 232-9 (C Wood 3-58, D Balcombe 3-70), Hampshire 154 (J Vince 46no) & 179 (M Carberry 61). Hampshire lost by 117 runs.

7 Glamorgan, h, CB40 – Glamorgan 173-7 (K Ali 3-44), Hampshire 151-2 (J Vince 83, M Carberry 60). Hampshire won on DL Method.

9-12 Derbyshire, h, LVCC – Hampshire 352-8 dec (J Adams 122, B Shafayat 93), Derbyshire 403-9 dec (K Ali 3-60, J Tomlinson 3-101). Drawn

16-19 Yorkshire, Headingley, LVCC – Hampshire 427 (S Katich 196, M Bates 103, S Ervine 44) & 191-2 dec (S Katich 61no, M Carberry 61no, J Adams 49), Yorkshire 399-9 dec (L Dawson 3-61). Drawn

20 Scotland, Uddingston, CB40 – Hampshire 220 (M Carberry 76), Scotland 131 (K Ali 2-17, D Briggs 2-31). Hampshire won by 89 runs.

23-26 Glamorgan, h, LVCC – Hampshire 316 (S Ervine 109, J Adams 42, M Bates 41) & 273 (J Adams 72, J Vince 48), Glamorgan 327 (D Balcombe 4-91) & 231 (K Ali 3-42, J Tomlinson 3-45). Hampshire won by 31 runs.

27 Somerset, Taunton, CB40 – Somerset 212-9, Hampshire 216-1 (M Carberry 103no, J Adams 56, J Vince 44no). Hampshire won by 9 wickets.

31 Nottinghamshire (F), h, CB40 – Notts 277-4, Hampshire 265 (S Ervine 68, M Carberry 54, J Adams 51, D Mascarenhas 48). Hampshire lost by 12 runs.

JUNE

3 Surrey, KIA Oval, CB40 – Surrey 76-1, match abandoned.

4 Scotland, h, CB40 – Scotland 230-9 (D Briggs 3-35), Hampshire 234-4 (M Carberry 148no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

6-9 Kent, Tunbridge Wells, LVCC – Hampshire 303-8 (L Dawson 134no, S Katich 54), Kent 220-6. Drawn

14 Sussex, Hove, FLt20 – Abandoned, no result

19 Middlesex (F), h, FLt20 – Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 64no), Middlesex 161-4. Hampshire lost by 6 wickets.

22 Kent, h, FLt20 – Kent 151-5, Hampshire 148-6. Hampshire lost by 3 runs.

24 Kent, Canterbury, FLt20 – Kent 135-6, Hampshire 138-4 (G Maxwell 66no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

27 Middlesex, Richmond, FLt20 – Middlesex 156-2, Hampshire 160-6 (S Ervine 75no, S Katich 40). Hampshire won by 4 wickets.

29 Essex, Chelmsford, FLt20 – Essex 176-4, Hampshire 177-4 (G Maxwell 60no, S Katich 42no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

30 Surrey, h, FLt20 – Surrey 94-6, Hampshire 95-3 (J Vince 25). Hampshire won by 7 wickets.

Continued on facing page ...

SHANE Watson believes Usain Bolt would overshadow the return of Shane Warne by playing in this year's KFC T20 Big Bash League.

Earlier this year, Bolt expressed interest in playing alongside Warne, pictured right, in the Melbourne Stars BBL franchise.

Watson said the presence of the world's fastest man in the Big

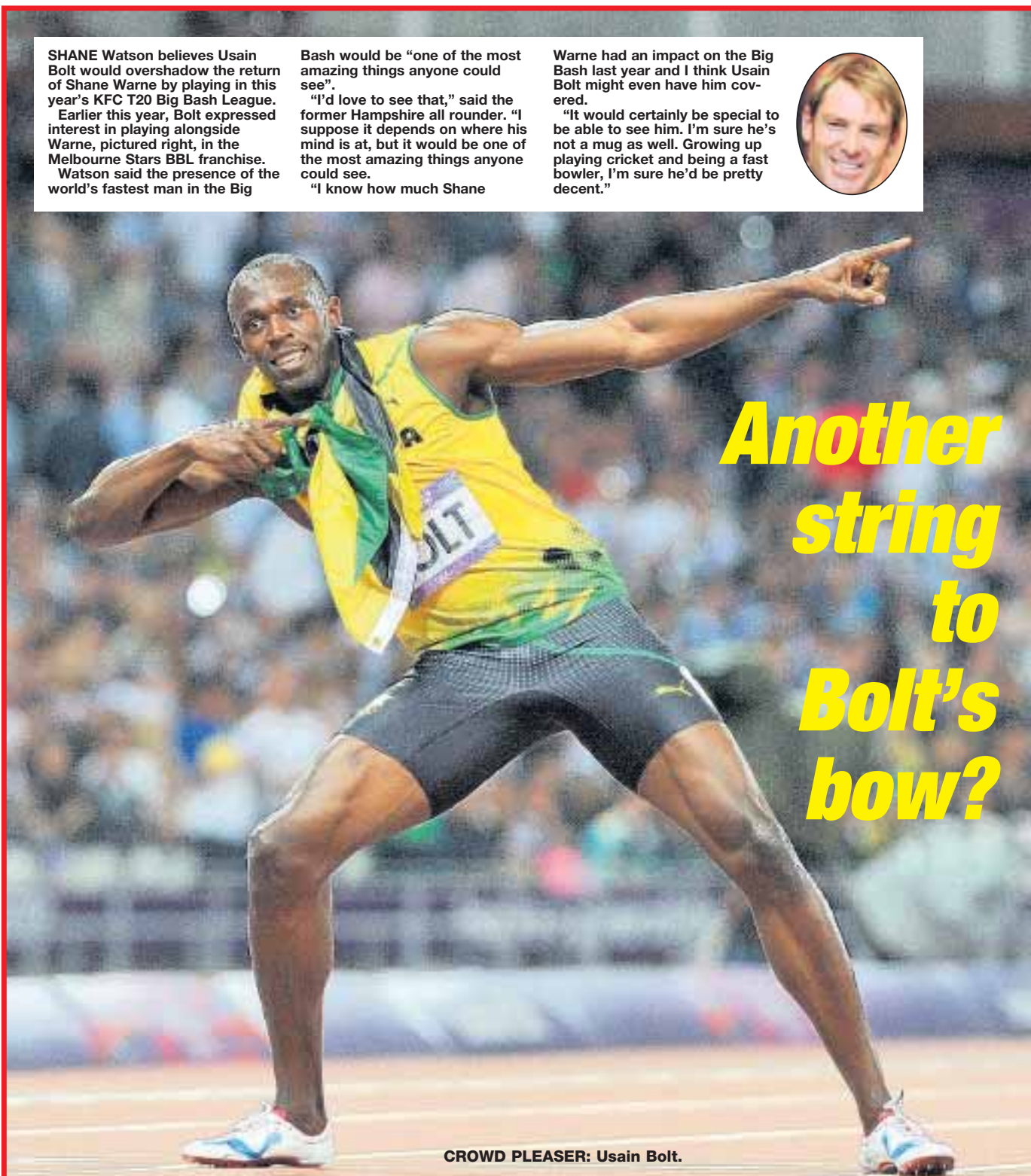
Bash would be "one of the most amazing things anyone could see".

"I'd love to see that," said the former Hampshire all rounder. "I suppose it depends on where his mind is at, but it would be one of the most amazing things anyone could see."

"I know how much Shane

Warne had an impact on the Big Bash last year and I think Usain Bolt might even have him covered.

"It would certainly be special to be able to see him. I'm sure he's not a mug as well. Growing up playing cricket and being a fast bowler, I'm sure he'd be pretty decent."



Another
string
to
Bolt's
bow?

CROWD PLEASER: Usain Bolt.

Treble chance for Hampshire teenagers

HAMPSHIRE'S teenagers are preparing for a big month of national competitions.

The under-14s and under-15s will bid to become national champions at Oakham School, Leicestershire next week, their respective compe-

titions taking place from Tuesday-Wednesday and Thursday-Friday.

The under-17s will play their championship semi-final on August 21/22 on the Nursery Ground at The Ageas Bowl and their second successive cup semi-final at Totton

and Eling CC on August 26.

Should they progress, the finals will be played on August 30 (Championship) and September 2 (Cup).

Charlie Freeston, Emerging Players Programme head coach,

said: "This is a fantastic achievement by the boys, coaches and managers, and is the first time we have had all our squads through to the national stages. It will be great if we can go one step further and win them all now!"

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



HANTS FACING FOUR 'MASSIVE' GAMES

HAVING been more used to LV County Championship relegation battles in recent seasons, James Tomlinson is relishing the race for promotion.

Tomlinson took the wicket that ensured first division survival against Kent at Canterbury two years ago.

But, after the disappointment of relegation on the final day of last season, he is helping lead the charge for an immediate return to the top flight.

With four games of the season remaining – against Northants (h), Leicestershire (a), Essex (h) and Derbyshire (a) – Hampshire are well placed in second, despite the disappointment of this week's draw against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

Hampshire were on course for a vital win when Gloucestershire concluded the penultimate day on 102-4 – a lead of 97.

But with the sun out and Dimi Mascarenhas's injured back keeping him out of the attack, Gloucestershire's batsmen ensured a draw by making 277 in their second innings.

Tomlinson, pictured, gave Hampshire some hope with two wickets in successive balls, but the failure to take more than one during the morning session meant that Giles White's side had to settle for eight points each.

"It was disappointing that it didn't happen for us," reflected Tomlinson, who finished with 2-73, having trapped Paul Muchall and Richard Coughtrie – both lbw – in the tenth over with the second new ball late in the afternoon.

"It wasn't through lack of effort, we just weren't quite good enough to win the game," he continued. "It was good to get in a winning position but the weather didn't help – it hasn't helped anyone all season!"

"It would have been an awesome game if we hadn't lost most of the second day to rain and that's a shame.

"If we'd got a full game in, we'd have been chasing around 270 on the final day to win which would have been brilliant for everyone.

"But it's been the story of the season. It's hard to compare the standard with the first division because the rain has led to a lot of draws and manufactured finishes.

"The best game we've had was against Glamorgan at home and that was because we had

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

four days of uninterrupted cricket.

"But we could still have got the win against Gloucestershire and should have bowled better on the penultimate evening. It would have been good to have started the final day with them six down.

"We also felt we were a bit unlucky to only get one wicket before lunch. Although I took two quick wickets we needed to go bang, bang a lot earlier than we did.

"Not having Dimi in that second innings made it more difficult and recent results at Bristol show that the wickets there get better as games go on, which is why we bowled first.

"But we still had enough bowlers. And, to be fair, I was impressed with how Gloucestershire batted. Ian Cockbain, Dan Housego and Richard Coughtrie all batted very well for a long period of time and their innings were all pretty chanceless."

Hampshire's draw was still enough for them to go second – level on points with third-placed Yorkshire – following Kent's defeat against Essex at Canterbury yesterday.

But Tomlinson admits that it looks to be a battle for second. Hampshire's last game is at Derby, but the leaders are 26 points clear, with a game in hand.

"It's very tight, there are four or five teams in with a chance and maybe more," said Tomlinson. "At this time of year, it's all about momentum.

"Every single game we play now is massive, which has been the case for a while, but I think we would all agree that Derbyshire deserve to be where they are.

"They have played the best cricket and realistically the rest of us are going for that second spot."

Only Kent's Charlie Shreck has taken more second division wickets than David Balcombe (41 at 26.6), but Tomlinson's 27 at 25.6 top Hampshire's averages.

Both have benefited from Hampshire's policy of leaving more grass on their Championship wickets.

"I feel I've been bowling well for a long period of time now but have struggled in the past on the slower wickets like we've had in the past," Tomlinson said. "I'm generally more successful at grounds where there's a bit more carry."

ROYALS 2012 fixtures

From facing page

JULY

2 Surrey, Kia Oval, FL120
Surrey 84-4 (10 overs), Hampshire 63-0 (J Adams 28no, J Vince 24no). Hampshire won by 19 runs (D/L Method)

6 Sussex (F), h, FL120
Sussex 203-5, abandoned, rain.

8 Essex (F), h, FL120
Abandoned, rain, no result

11-14 Yorkshire, h, LVCC
Yorkshire 350-9 dec (J Tomlinson 4-80), Hampshire 39-0. Drawn

15 Durham, h, CB40
Durham 200-7 (K Ali 3-39), Hampshire 201-6 (S Katich 59no, J Vince 40). Hampshire won by 4 wickets.

17 Notts (F), Trent Bridge, CB40
Hampshire 230-7 (J Vince 102no), Notts 231-44. Hampshire lost by 6 wickets.

19-22 Essex, Chelmsford, LVCC
Hampshire 323 (N McKenzie 139, S Ervine 55) & 54-0 dec, Essex 18-0 dec and 357 (J Tomlinson 5-86). Hampshire won by 2 runs.

25 Notts, Trent Bridge, 120 QF
Notts 178-7 (Maxwell 3-36), Hampshire 182-6 (McKenzie 79*, Dawson 30). Hampshire won by four wickets.

27-30 Kent, h, LVCC
Hampshire 292 (J Adams 91) and 186-9 (J Adams 86*), Kent 467 (Tomlinson 4-94). Match drawn.

AUGUST

6-9 Gloucestershire, Bristol, LVCC
Gloucestershire 271 (Ali 3-69) and 277 (Balcombe 3-51), Hampshire 276 (McKenzie 94) and 0-0. Match drawn.

10 Glamorgan (F), SWALEC, CB40
Hampshire 227 (McKenzie 88), Glamorgan 120 (Wood 5-22, Briggs 4-32). Hampshire won by 107 runs.

14 Somerset (F), h, CB40
15-18 Northamptonshire, h, LVCC
19 Surrey, h, CB40
21-24 Leics, Grace Road, LVCC
25 FL120 semi-finals
27 Durham, Chester-le-Street, CB40

SEPTEMBER

4-7 Essex, h, LVCC
11-14 Derbyshire, Derby, LVCC
15 CB40 final, Lords.

KEY: LVCC (LV County Championship division two), CB40 (Clydesdale Bank40), FL120 (Friends Life 120), F (floodlit)

Daily Echo

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Local Cricket

Spotlight



UNBEATEN 112: Luke Webb.

Luke-ing good!

BASHLEY (Rydal) prospect Luke Webb is celebrating his first ECB Under-17 County Championship century for Dorset.

He made an unbeaten 112 in the two-day victory the Isle of Wight CB at Canford.

Webb, playing his first Premier League season with Bashley, is also in the Hampshire Emerging Players Development Programme at the Ageas Bowl and will be going to the under-16 tournament in Jersey later this month.

Rich pickings

BASHLEY (Rydal) captain Richard Morris smashed 71 off 37 balls against Hartley Country Club but was unable to steer the Southern Electric Cup winners beyond the area semi-final stage of the ECB t20 national championships at Hursley Park.

Morris, pictured, hit two sixes and eight fours in a one-man assault on the Kent Premier League leaders, but once he was dismissed Bashley's lack of depth was all apparent as they slumped from 92-1 to 142 all out and an eventual seven-wicket defeat.

Hartley were in turn beaten by Wimbledon in the area final.

Home boost

HAVANT have landed a juicy home tie in the ECB Kingfisher Beer Cup national club championship semi-finals on August 26.

Their reward for knocking out Teddington and then Birmingham League champions Barnt Green in the previous two rounds is a visit to Havant Park from Essex Premier League leaders Wanstead & Snarresbrook, who beat Bridgwater by 21 runs in the quarter-finals.

In the other semi-final, York will host Bamford Fieldhouse for a place in the mid-September final at Derby.

Allam in the driving seat

TICHBORNE Park all-rounder Tom Allam, pictured right, is favourite to win the Southern Electric Premier League Division 3 bowling award for a second consecutive season.

He bagged 35 wickets last year and is out in front again this term, with 26 victims – three more than Calmore's Paul Proudley.

Tichborne Park, who still have an outside chance of promotion,

visited Trojans today and finish against Portsmouth and SPL3 leaders Liphook & Ripsley.

Leading performers:

PREMIER DIVISION

Batting: Tom Morton (South Wilts) 349, David Taylor (Totton & Eling) 348, Richard Morris (Bashley) 340, Scott Myers (Alton) 338, Nick Park (Bournemouth) 328, James Halson (Academy) 313, Ian Hilsom (Ventnor) 302, Oli Green (Academy) 298, Charlie Esson (St Cross Symondians) 297, Glyn Treagus (Lymington) 293, George Adair (St Cross Symondians) 290.
Bowling: Glenn Maxwell (South Wilts) 25, Matt Perry-Lewis (St Cross Symondians) 23, Richard Hindley

(Havant) 23, Richard Logan (St Cross Symondians) 23, Matt Metcalfe (Bournemouth) 22, Jez Ord (Havant) 21, David Taylor (Totton & Eling) 21, Kevin Nash (Bashley) 20, Dwayne Bowden (Alton) 20.
Wicketkeeping: Tom Morton 17, Jez Bullied (Havant) 16, Ed Ellis (Lymington) 15, Nigel Bungay (Totton & Eling) 13, Dan Friedman (Bashley) 13.

DIVISION 2

Batting: Tristen McDonald (Rowledge) 505, Ben Thane (Hook & NB) 411, Derek Kenway (Burridge) 389, Jordan Silk (Burridge) 366, Matt Journeaux (Sarisbury Athletic) 363, Nick Willcock (Hook) 343, Dan Hewitt (Hambledon) 341, Will Phillips (Hartley Wintney) 335.
Bowling: Dan Hewitt 23, Dan Loader (New Milton) 22, Ryan Beck (New Milton) 20, Kevin Poulter (Hook) 20, Luke Graham (Andover) 20, Ben Thane

20, Paul Ancell (Burridge) 19, Dan Goldstraw (Sarisbury Athletic) 18.
Wicketkeeping: Ian Metcalfe (Rowledge) 14, Nick Scutt (Hambledon) 13, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 11, Tom Alsop (Andover) 11.

DIVISION 3

Batting: Peter Woodland (Liphook) 424, Paul Marks (Fawley) 392, Richard Partington (Gosport Boro) 376, Ali Cheyne (Langley Manor) 371, Farshaan Jemildar (Portsmouth) 365, Damian Carson (US) 348, Craig Renders (Langley Manor) 341.
Bowling: Tom Allam (Tichborne Park) 26, Paul Proudley (Calmore) 23, Alan Crawford (Liphook) 22, Tom Lamer (Gosport Boro) 22, Cody Henderson (US) 22.
Wicketkeeping: Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 14, Dave Lyons (Tichborne Park) 12, Darren Vann (Calmore) 11, Lee Carroll (US) 11, Chris Martin (Liphook) 11.



CRUNCH TIME FOR HADFIELD'S MEN

TURN the clock back seven weeks and Andover topped Southern Electric Premier League Division 2 and were eyeing a possible return to the top flight next season.

Young skipper Jonty Hadfield, in his embryo season at the helm, didn't get carried away when Andover won four of their first six matches.

But, if Andover don't beat Burridge this weekend, he'll have every reason to cast an anxious glance or two at the increasingly tense situation developing around the basement, **writes MIKE VIM-PANY.**

Back-to-back wins by Paultons over OTs & Romsey and Burridge, coupled with Andover's crushing defeat by a Stuart Shapland inspired OTs last weekend, has made it all very close to call in the nether regions.

Any of the bottom five clubs could go down ...

Paultons faced a real tester at table topping Rowledge today, but finish with Andover, New Milton and Hambledon – all teams they are capable of beating.

OTs need more win points on the board quickly – New Milton and Hambledon are next on their list – as, subsequently, they won't want to be taking on the likes of Hook & Newnham Basics and Sarisbury Athletic, two clubs who could be in the title scrap in the closing fortnight of the campaign.

Dan Hewitt, with 341 runs and 23 wickets, is having a fine season at Hambledon, whose immediate future is firmly in their own hands.

The Dons have OTs & Romsey,



Burridge and Paultons to play after visiting Hartley Wintney.

Burridge, masters of the Great Escape last season, are currently the best placed of the five strugglers, but with Australian Jordan Silk having joined the Tasmanian Tigers, they are not such a strong side now.

They too have a series of 'six pointers' to finish the season.

SEPL DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	BP	Ttl	Ave
Rowledge	9	7	2	73	157	17.44
Sarisbury + Hook & NB+	9	6	2	70	148	16.44
New Milton	10	5	4	78	144	14.40
Hartley W	11	6	5	82	154	14.00
Burridge	10	5	5	70	130	12.50
Andover	9	4	5	64	112	12.44
Hambledon	10	4	6	74	122	12.20
Ot's & Romsey	11	4	7	83	131	11.91
Paultons	8	3	5	53	89	11.13
+tied matches	9	3	6	50	86	9.56

* Points deducted for administrative error

ANDOVER CRICKET CLUB 1ST XI:

Back row (from left): Mark Copleston, Robbie Hadfield, Mike Adams, Luke Graham, Tom Alsop, Luke Scully. Front: Danny Foy, Chris Hadfield, Jonty Handfield, Ali Hooper, Tim Lewis.

Local Cricket Spotlight

MATHS ACE SETH HAS ANDOVER'S NUMBER

PORTSMOUTH & Southsea are hot favourites for the Hampshire League championship after their two nearest rivals Ryde and Bashley (Rydal) crashed to defeat.

They went into today's visit to relegation threatened Bedhampton 19 points clear at the top of County Division 1, **writes MIKE VIMAPNY.**

But, with the title race in the final straight, they came within a whisker of suffering the same losing fate as Ryde at Waterlooville and Bashley II against Ellingham.

P & S almost came a cropper against an Andover II side that is struggling to stay up.

Bidding to chase down Andover's 209-9, P & S saw five of their first six batsmen depart for a combined total of 20 runs. Ace run getter Ash Wallace went for a duck.

Alex Fletcher (38) halted the slide, but the eventual victory owed almost everything to Hampshire Under-17 squad member Seth Jackson, who steered the leaders to an eighth straight win with an unbeaten 62.

The Portsmouth Grammar School A-level maths student shared a key eighth-wicket stand with skipper Dave Tiller (32) as Andover were left to curse the 42 extras they gave away.

Andover also lost early wickets, rallied through Luke Andrews (43) and Andy Sale (38), but relied mostly on youngsters Dan Turner (24) and Josh Clarke (33) for an unbroken ninth wicket stand which helped them post 209-9.

Portsmouth & Southsea probably thought they had played their 'get out of jail' card when news filtered through that nearest rivals Ryde and Bashley (Rydal) II had both lost.

Waterlooville put a serious dent in Ryde's prospects with a 94-run win achieved after they had posted an imposing 252-7.

Half-centuries by Alex Lamont (59) and Max Goddard (54) put the Ville in command before Sam Hillman (3-13) created inroads at the top of the Ryde order.



PORTCHESTER: Set for a mid-table County Division 1 finish.

John Zaccardi (75) responded in Ryde's disappointing 158 response.

Stuart Layton celebrated his BCG return with a fine half-century as Ellingham continued their rise away from trouble with a handsome 40-run win over Bashley II.

He made 61 and Matt Vail 65 as Ellingham totalled 238-8 before four wickets each by Henry Shutler (4-30) and Joe Priestley (4-55) bowled Bashley out for 198.

St Cross Symondians III narrowed the gap between themselves and Bashley to four points after chasing down Fareham & Crofton's 254 with an over to spare at the Green Jackets Ground.

Luke Gould's 121 led the way for Fareham, the captain sharing a century partnership with Chris Davey (58) and 70 with Ben Kissane (23).

In-form James Burridge (85) underpinned the run chase, with Chris Rose (8), Harry Foyle (38) and Ross Adamson (31) playing support roles

before Tom Postle's 22 not out sealed the two-wicket win.

Portchester's hopes of a top-four finish are a distant dream after Graham Buckingham's unbeaten century guided Hook & Newnham Basics II to a seven-wicket win at Cams Hill.

Left-arm Alex Cates took 5-40 as Portchester made 198-9, but Buckingham, with 103 not out, and Matt McNally (45) dominated after tea.

There were two more centuries at Warsash Road, where Locks Heath overhauled a Lymington score of 241-3 to win by five wickets.

Geoff Webber (102) got the first of the day for Lymington, for whom Joel Sutherland made 52 not out.

But Alex Richardson, with 112 in a 160-run opening stand alongside Scott Jones (47), was the eventual match winner.

Midhurst and Rowledge II scored important wins to ease their respective relegation concerns.

	P	W	L	BT	BW	Pts	Av
Portsmouth & Southsea	8	8	0	52	31	179	22.38
Ryde	7	6	1	38	30	140	20.00
Bashley (Rydal) 2	10	8	2	57	43	196	19.60
St Cross 3	10	8	2	57	39	192	19.20
Waterlooville	9	6	3	46	34	152	16.89
*Purbrook	7	4	2	30	30	114	16.29
Portchester	9	5	4	40	36	136	15.11
Locks Heath	10	6	4	47	32	151	15.10
Rowledge 2	6	3	3	23	23	82	13.67
Hook & NB 2	8	3	5	45	27	108	13.50
Ellingham	9	4	5	40	32	120	13.33
Lymington 2	9	3	6	47	30	113	12.56
Midhurst	10	3	7	53	31	120	12.00
Fareham & Crofton	8	2	6	43	28	95	11.88
Alton 2	7	2	5	29	22	75	10.71
*Idlers	9	2	6	33	30	93	10.33
Andover 2	9	1	8	26	27	65	7.22
Bedhampton	7	1	6	21	16	49	7.00
*Match tied							

Alton made 205-7 (Ed Hubbard 86) in Cowdray Park, but Nalinda Premachandra (73), aided by Stephen May (46), got Midhurst out of potential trouble at 50-3 and to a four-wicket win.

Rowledge ripped Idlers out for 76 to earn a comprehensive seven-wicket win at Leckford, where the hosts – like Alton and Fareham – are desperate for a third win.



Longparish in mourning for Ken Ball

LONGPARISH cricket is mourning the death of groundsman Ken Ball, a stalwart of the village club for well over 60 years and who lived in the house that guards the gate to the ground.

Ken, pictured above, first played for Longparish in 1945 against Hurstbourne Tarrant when he was out for a duck. An occasional leg spinner and fine cover point fielder, his highest score was a big hundred against Hamble.

He was heavily involved in preparation of pitches at Longparish for some time and for many years wrote match reports for the local press, his finest day coming when the club won the National Village Cup at Lord's.

In 2011, he was awarded a NatWest Cricket lifetime achievement award for services to cricket and a 'Pride of Andover' award.

Longparish CC owe a huge debt of gratitude to Ken Ball, without him the club would not be what it is today.

Ken Ball's funeral is at Basingstoke Crematorium on Thursday, 2pm.



Sussex's loss is Hampshire's gain

WORTHING leg-spinner Mason Crane will shortly be appearing in two ECB national junior age group semi-finals – but it won't be for his native Sussex!

Hampshire have nabbed the highly promising Lancing College 15-year old cricketer, pictured left, from under Sussex's nose – and he's already being touted as one for the future at the Ageas Bowl.

By all accounts, Sussex weren't interested in Crane when former Hampshire youth development manager Raj Maru invited them to take a look.

So Maru, Lancing's cricket coach, recommended him to Hampshire.

Now Crane has an ECB Under-15 Cup semi-final to look forward to against Norfolk at Oakham on Wednesday, and on August 21-22,

will play a key spin role for Hampshire in the Under-17 county championship semi-final showdown with Surrey at the Ageas Bowl.

Not afraid to flight his leg breaks and chuck in his wicket-taking googlies, Crane has taken 19 wickets in the Sussex Premier League for Worthing this season – a statistic that makes it even more amazing that the likeable little leggie isn't

wearing a martlets sweater.

Instead, he's enjoying life with Hampshire's two extremely successful under-15 and under-17 junior age group sides and can't wait for those semi-finals ...

● Read Monday's *Daily Echo* for news about Hampshire's three separate age group sides which have reached ECB semi-finals.

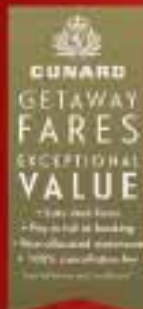
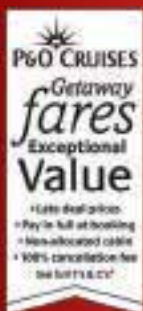
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6	505	PERSIAN MARVEL (IRE) (23) J Boyle 8 12	J Fanning 2
7	6400	ANNIE BESANT (9) D C Griffiths 8 6	H Bentley (3) 6

BETTING: 6-4 Somethingboutmay, 4-1 Iris Blue, 5-1 Moonlit Dancer, 6-1 Meet Me Halway, 11-1 Annie Besant, Persian Marvel, 14-1 Borough Boy.

2.40 32REDBET.COM NURSERY (CLASS 6). £2,750 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £1,875.

1	4060	LAWFUL (25) P Fitzsimons 9 7	.....	J McDonald 9
2	045	SPITHEAD (34) (BF) W Haggas 9 7	.....	A Beschizza (3) 7
3	500	LINDA'S ICON (11) M Channon 9 6	.....	N Callan 5
4	0000	WHITFORD (IRE) (6) C Dwyer 9 3	.....	A Atzeni 6
5	400	ANA SHABABIYA (IRE) (18) I Mohammed 9 1	.....	R Ffrench 1
6	500	KUNZEA (IRE) (9) M Channon 8 13	.....	C Catlin 3
7	600	GARMELOW GIRL (1) K Ryan 8 13	.....	Julie Burke (3) 2
8	0055	CERNANOVA (IRE) (14) H Palmer 8 6	.....	N Garbutt (7) 8
9	0666	BIRDY BOY (USA) (18) M Johnston 8 8	.....	J Fanning 4

BETTING: 11-8 Spithead, 9-2 Birdy Boy, 10-1 Linda's Icon, Garmelow Girl, 11-1 Ana Shababiya, Kunzea, Cernanova, 14-1 Lawful, 20-1 Whitford.

3.10 32RED CASINO MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £2,500 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £2,588.

KEMPTON

Going: Standard to Slow

2.30 BETFAIR. DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £1,617.

1	64	ALHAARTH BEAUTY (IRE) (12) R Hannan 9 0	.....	R Hughes 1
2	0	BE VERY CAREFUL (21) R Hannan 9 0	.....	S Levey 7
3	032	MADAME ELIZABETH (12) R Hollinshead 9 0	.....	R Kennemore 4
4	000	MULTI FOURS D Kubler 9 0	.....	M Dwyer 3
5	320	POITIN H Dunlop 9 0	.....	S De Sousa 2
6	3420	RIO'S PEARL (R) R Beckett 9 0	.....	J Crowley 6
7	423	SORELLA BELLA (IRE) (11) (BF) M Channon 9 0	.....	S Hitchcott 3

BETTING: 13-8 Rio's Pearl, 11-4 Alhaarth Beauty, 4-1 Sorella Bella, 13-2 Madame Elizabeth, 14-1 Poitin, 20-1 Multi Fours, Be Very Careful.

3.00 BETTER PRICES ON BETFAIR MOBILE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3 to 5YO 1m 4f Penalty Value £1,617.

1	0	MAGIC IN MOTION (420) N Mulholland 5 9 9	.....	E Ahern 4
2	2	ALTARIA (44) Mrs A Perrett 3 8 12	.....	J Mongan 8
3	525	BROADWAY BABE (IRE) (46) H Dunlop 3 8 12	.....	S De Sousa 1
4	350-54	BUZKASHI (IRE) (23) D Lanigan 3 8 12	.....	D O'Neill 7
5	402	CAPHIRA (14) W Knight 3 8 12	.....	R Hughes 5
6	5-2435	IDYLLIC STAR (IRE) (18) S J Moore 3 8 12	.....	D Holland 6
7	0	RIDIKYA (IRE) J W Mullins 3 8 12	.....	S Hitchcott 3
8	0	SHEA R Beckett 3 8 12	.....	R Thomas 2

BETTING: 15-8 Caphira, 11-4 Buzkashi, 9-2 Broadway Babe, 7-1 Altaria, 8-1 Idyllic Star, 12-1 Shea, 33-1 Ridiyka, Magic In Motion.

3.30 BETFAIR SUPPORTS GRASSROOTS RACING AT KEMPTON NURSERY (CLASS 5). £3,500 added

WOLVERHAMPTON

Going: Standard

5.40 HOLIDAY INN WOLVERHAMPTON APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m 119yds Penalty Value £1,704.

1	221404	CORVETTE (9) (C) Miss G Kelleway 6 9 12	.....	P Makin 7
2	1030-0	MUJAMEAD (J121) (CD) A Carroll 8 9 7	.....	A Blakemore (7) 4
3	065-3	ARCTIC WINGS (IRE) (J43) A Carroll 8 8 13	.....	R Tate (3) 5
4	250304	SACCO D'ORO (J10) M Mullineux 6 8 10	.....	G Whillans (9) 3
5	0-4046	HOAR FROST (7) Mrs K Tutty 7 8 9	.....	Gemma Tutty 2
6	6400-	FEELING PECKISH (USA) (J23) M Chapman 6 8 9	.....	R Old (9) 3

BETTING: 13-8 Arctic Wings, 10-3 Sacco D'oro, 9-2 Corvette, 11-2 Mujamead, 7-1 Hoar Frost, 25-1 Feeling Peckish.

6.10 GREAT OFFERS AT WOLVERHAMPTON-RACECOURSE.CO.UK SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £1,704.

1	445164	JORDAURA (4) (C) Miss G Kelleway 6 9 12	.....	P Makin 7
2	106265	SPARTAN KING (IRE) (49) J Williams 4 9 12	.....	R Powell (3) 5
3	040663	CHOCKE HAMILTON (6) (CD) J Semple 8 9 7	.....	G Whillans (9) 3
4	000	ILEWIN DUNDEE (J41) C Brown 6 9 7	.....	L Newnes (9) 1
5	40-022	LOCUM (38) M Tompkins 7 9 7	.....	K Fallon 6
6	4-0060	TARTAN GUNNA (18) (C) J Given 6 9 7	.....	G Lee 8
7	6214-	GOLDMADCHEN (GER) (J19) (BF) P Hobbs 4 9 2	.....	J P Spencer 2
8	0	RYE PARK (J126) J S Moore 6 9 2	.....	L Keniry 4

BETTING: 2-1 Goldmadchen, 3-1 Chookie Hamilton, 6-1 Jordaura, 15-2 Tartan Gunna, 8-1 Locum, 11-1 Spartan King, 16-1 Ilewin Dundee, Rye Park.

6.40 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK WOLVERHAMPTON RACECOURSE HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 1f 103yds Penalty Value £1,704.

1	0	ADMIRABLE ART (IRE) M Botti 9 3	.....	A Atzeni 2
2	0	BIG THUNDER (6) Sir M Prescott 9 3	.....	C Catlin 7
3	6	EMPOWERMENT (IRE) (8) R Hannan 9 3	.....	P Dobbs 3
4	6	GREY BLUE (IRE) (11) M Johnston 9 3	.....	J Fanning 5
5	62	LABIENUS (19) (BF) D Lanigan 9 3	.....	T Durcan 8
6	00	MISHAAL (IRE) R Varian 9 3	.....	N Callan 6
7	00	PROGENITOR (IRE) (19) D Lanigan 9 3	.....	J McDonald 4
8	0	CONCISE E Dunlop 8 12	.....	P Hanagan 1

BETTING: 3-1 Labienus, 9-2 Mishaal, 5-1 Concise, 13-2 Empowerment, Grey Blue, 8-1 Big Thunder, Admirable Art, 11-1 Progenitor.

3.40 32RED HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £7,000 added 3YO only 1m 2f Penalty Value £4,528.

1	52-14	WESTWITHTHEIGHT (IRE) (59) W Haggas 9 7	.....	5
2	-13350	PARLEY (USA) (35) M Johnston 9 6	.....	J Fanning 7
3	251-0	INTUTION (69) R Hannan 9 5	.....	P Dobbs 2
4	403512	HALLING DANCER (11) L Carter 9 4	.....	A Beschizza (9) 4
5	6-4336	CORSETRY (USA) (41) Sir H Cecil 9 3	.....	T Quessly 3
6	04-123	WATHEEQ (USA) (18) (D) R Varian 9 2	.....	P Hanagan 1
7	400423	INSTRUMENTALIST (IRE) (10) (C) Best 9 2	.....	T Durcan 6
8	441000	ALWAYS EAGER (3) M Johnston 8 5	.....	J Fanning 8

BETTING: 3-1 Watheeq, 4-1 Halling Dancer, 9-2 Instrumentalist, 13-2 Corsetry, Westwiththeight, 10-1 Parley, Intuition, Always Eager.

4.10 32REDBINGO.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £1,704.

1	340624	BENEATH (18) N Mulholland 5 9 12	.....	T Quessly 2
2	-00042	SECRET ERA (26) W Muir 5 9 11	.....	7
3	632010	RODRIGO DE FREITAS (IRE) (18) (D) J Boyle 5 9 11	.....	J Crowley 11
4	400000	BREAKHEART (IRE) (14) (C) P Howling 5 9 9	.....	1
5	130306	CELTIC CHARLIE (FR) (65) (CD) P Phelan 7 9 Jemma Marshall (5) 4	.....
6	0050	MOONSHINE RUBY (17) P Hatt 6 9 4	.....	W Carson 6
7	00-516	MELODRAMA (IRE) (60) D Lanigan 3 9 3	.....	T Durcan 5

2YO only 1m Penalty Value £2,264.

1	522	NEW FALCON (IRE) (17) J Tate 9 7	.....	M Dwyer 4
2	553	MOWHOOB (47) J Gosden 9 5	.....	E Ahern 7
3	406	QUINTILIAN (IRE) (23) M Al Zarooni 9 5	.....	S De Sousa 5
4	0432	BIX (IRE) (28) (BF) B Meehan 9 4	.....	Michael J M Murphy (7) 9
5	50456	WALTER WHITE (IRE) (19) A Balding 9 3	.....	J Fortune 8
6	630	TUFFAN (USA) (16) C Brittain 9 2	.....	B Doyle 6
7	505	UNIDEXTER (IRE) (19) M Channon 9 1	.....	S Hitchcott 3
8	50014	MAGIC CHANNEL (USA) (8) (BF) R Hannan 8 13	.....	R Hughes 1
9	553	EASTERN DRAGON (IRE) (58) R Scudamore 8 8	.....	2

BETTING: 7-4 Mowhoob, 11-2 New Falcon, 6-1 Quintilian, Bix, 8-1 Magic Channel, 10-1 Walter White, 12-1 Tuffan, 14-1 Unidexter, 25-1 Eastern Dragon.

4.00 BETFAIR BOOSTS PRIZE MONEY AT KEMPTON FILLIES' HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 3YO only 7f Penalty Value £2,264.

1	140100	JUMEIRAH PALM STAR (11) (CD) R Hannan 9 7	.....	R Hughes 7
2	-12404	MAJESTIC ZAFEEH (73) (C) A J Liddell 9 7	.....	2
3	0-2346	SARATOGA SLEW (IRE) (14) M Botti 9 4	.....	T Atkinson 5
4	530	PRINCESS STEPH (IRE) (66) Mrs H Main 9 3	.....	J Fortune 4
5	4-44	NORLANDER (42) R Beckett 8 7	.....	R Thomas 8
6	400212	PURLEY QUEEN (IRE) (20) (BF) S Kirk 8 6	.....	M Dwyer 1
7	60-0	ICE MISSILE (47) S Kirk 8 5	.....	5
8	230002	MACY ANNE (IRE) (25) R Mills 8 4	.....	S De Sousa 3

BETTING: 7-2 Purley Queen, 9-2 Macy Anne, 6-1 Jumeirah Palm Star, Norlander, 13-2 Saratoga Slew, 7-1 Majestic Zafeen, Princess Steph, 10-1 Ice Missile.

4.30 SCOTT MILLS & STOOSSHE LIVE 07.09.12 HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £2,264.

1	034200	WATERLOO DOCK (19) (D) M Quinn 7 9 12	.....	6
2	-04003	HOOVER (19) (D) J Boyle 4 9 12	.....	E Ahern 3
3	124040	DVINSKY (USA) (7) (CD7) P Howling 11 9 10	.....	Quinn 4
4	600055	BOBBY'S DOLL (R) T Clement 5 9 9	.....	Michael J M Murphy (7) 2

8	0-065	PUGNACIOUS (IRE) (6) M Johnston 3 9 2	.....	J Fanning 10
9	4-0621	ATTRACTION TICKET (7) D M Simcock 3 9 2	.....	A Beschizza (3) 9
10	6-6604	MACCABEES (51) R Curtis 3 9 0	.....	N Curtis (7) 8
11	000050	CASTALIAN SPRING (IRE) (7) T Clement 3 8 3	.....	Natasha Ector (7) 3

BETTING: 5-2 Attraction Ticket, 7-2 Secret Era, 15-2 Pugnacious, Beneath, 8-1 Celtic Charlie, Maccabees, 10-1 Melodrama, 16-1 Rodrigo De Freitas, 20-1 others.

4.40 32RED.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £7,000 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £4,528.

1	0-0002	INVINCIBLE LAD (IRE) (8) (D) J Bradley 8 9 10	.....	T Quessly 6
2	51-012	TANGO SKY (IRE) (30) (CD) (BF) R Beckett 3 9 5	.....	J Crowley 3
3	1-0000	EXPOSE (9) (D) W Haggas 4 9 3	.....	A Beschizza (3) 1
4	315000	GORGEOUS GOBLIN (IRE) (9) (C) (D) D C Griffiths 5 9 3	.....	Kirsty Milczarek 4
5	101364	BILLY RED (4) (CD) J R Jenkins 8 9 0	.....	P Hanagan 8
6	410001	PROPER CHARLIE (19) (C) W Knight 4 8 13	.....	N Callan 7
7	023440	FALASTEEN (IRE) (13) (D) J Bradley 5 8 13	.....	C Catlin 5
8	0-1400	PUCON (43) (CD) R Teal 3 8 2	.....	I Burns (7) 2

BETTING: 2-1 Proper Charlie, 11-4 Tango Sky, 9-2 Invincible Lad, 11-1 Expose, Billy Red, 12-1 Puccon, Falasteen, 25-1 Gorgeous Goblin.

5.10 32 BONUS AT 32RED.COM MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3YO only 1m Penalty Value £2,588.

1	0	BE MY ROCK R Guest 9 0	.....	J Jones (5) 3
2	5533	KHAZEENA (22) W Haggas 9 0	.....	P Hanagan 6
3	00451	MERRY JAUNT (USA) J Gosden 9 0	.....	T Quessly 1
4	0	ROSA LOTTIE D C Griffiths 9 0	.....	Kirsty Milczarek 5
5	06	SHAHRAZAD (IRE) (26) P Gilligan 9 0	.....	J Mackay 2
6	000	VENETIAS DREAM (IRE) (20) S C Williams 9 0	.....	W Carson 4

BETTING: 4-6 Khaezeena, 3-1 Merry Jaunt, 10-1 Be My Rock, 14-1 Venetias Dream, Shahrazad, 20-1 Rosa Lottie.

Monday's runners

5	604561	PRINCE OF PASSION (CAN) (7) (D) D Shaw 4 9 7 (ex) S De Sousa 7	.....
6	005451	HANNIBAL HAYES (USA) (19) J Nosedda 3 9 6	.....	R Hughes 5
7	00-001	PLUM BAY (10) (D) D Elsworth 3 9 2	.....	D O'Neill 1

BETTING: 20-1 Hannibal Hayes, 3-1 Hoover, 4-1 Prince Of Passion, 5-1 Plum Bay, 12-1 Dvinsky, 20-1 Bobby's Doll, 25-1 Waterloo Dock.

5.00 OLLY MURS LIVE HERE ON FRIDAY HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £6,300 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £4,075.

1	-0240P	TAIKOO (24) H Morrison 7 9 7	.....	D Holland 6
2	/545-6	ALSADAA (USA) (26) (CD) Mrs L Morgan 9 9 7	.....	I Mongan 7
3	54-005	TWICE BITTEN (33) (C) J Toller 4 9 5	.....	G Baker 5
4	433516	JAMARJO (IRE) (32) (C) (D) S Gollings 5 9 1	.....	R Hughes 3
5	3206/0	AKBABEND (12) C Gordon 6 9 0	.....	S Hitchcott 1
6	461034	FREDERICK WILLIAM (26) (C) C Gordon 4 8 10	.....	D O'Neill 4
7	-06025	LADY OF BURGUNDY (19) M Usher 6 8 6	.....	S De Sousa 2

BETTING: 7-4 Jamarjo, 11-4 Twice Bitten, 11-2 Taikoo, 8-1 Alsadaa, 10-1 Lady Of Burgundy, Frederick William, 12-1 AKBABEND.

5.30 LADIES DAY WITH TOBY ANSTIS 08.09.12 HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 3f Penalty Value £2,264.

1	00-000	HEIGHT OF SUMMER (IRE) (17) (C) C Wall 4 10 0	.....	G Baker 5
2	30-855	BRIGADOON (14) W Jarvis 5 10 0	.....	Michael J M Murphy (7) 6
3	116426	TILSWORTH GLENBOY (22) J R Jenkins 5 10 0	.....	D Holland 7
4	220004	HURRICANE HYMNBOOK (USA) (24) W Musson 7 9 115 Donohoe 4	.....
5	243140	BENELONG (16) (C) R Rowe 6 9 10	.....	A Quinn 8
6	3-1252	SPARTAN SPIRIT (IRE) (21) (CD) H Morrison 4 9 8	.....	R Hughes 8
7	0-1306	PASSION PLAY (16) (C) W Knight 4 9 6	.....	J Fortune 1
8	0300	AZERODEGREE (IRE) (18) M Botti 3 9 0	.....	J Quinn 2

BETTING: 2-1 Spartan Spirit, 9-2 Hurricane Hymnbook, 5-1 Brigadoon, 11-2 Tilsworth Glenboy, 11-1 Benelong, Height of Summer, Passion Play, 14-1 Azerodegree.

Monday's runners

4	0	HAVIN' A GOOD TIME (IRE) (53) R Varian 3 8 12	.....	A Atzeni 4
5	600	MRS BRIDGES (33) R Ingram 3 8 12	.....	L Keniry 8
6	0	MY HONKYCHURCH F Sheridan 3 8 12	.....	R Da Silva (3) 3
7	0	STONEACRE HULL (IRE) (56) P Grayson 3 8 12	.....	R FitzPatrick 2
8	0-0666	TOO AMBITIOUS (R) R Hollinshead 3 8 12	.....	R Kennemore 10

BETTING: 11-10 Anian Trader, 9-4 Missile Attack, 9-2 Havin' A Good Time, 20-1 My Honkychurch, Too Ambitious, My Time, 50-1 Mrs Bridges, 66-1 Stoneacre Hull.

8.10 BOOK TICKETS ONLINE AT WOLVERHAMPTON-RACECOURSE.CO.UK NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £6,500 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £4,205.

1	0331	MEDICOE (6) (D) Sir M Prescott 9 12 (6ex)	.....	Luke Morris 5
2	153304	EFFIE B (9) M Channon 9 7	.....	M Davies 4
3	452	ROYAL STEPS (IRE) (11) J Tate 9 4	.....	M Dwyer 1
4	030	WELLINGROVE (IRE) (19) M Johnston 8 11	.....	F Norton 2
5	0024	PIPPY (16) T Dascombe 8 10	.....	R Kingscote 3

BETTING: Evens Medicoe, 10-3 Effie B, 9-2 Royal Steps, 8-1 Pippy, 11-1 Wellingrove.

8.40 BOOK NOW FOR CHRISTMAS HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,264.

1	204433	SATWA LAIRD (5) (D) C Dore 6 9 12	.....	Hayley Turner 11
2	60304	GLENDINING (11) (CD) J Given 8 9 11	.....	G Lee 12
3	211423	KNOW NO FEAR (16) (CD) A J Chapman 7 9 9	.....	Amey Scott (5) 7
4	000130	MOZING USUA (10) (D) M Liddle 4 9 8	.....	R Kennemore 10
5	210020	FLUTEWOOD (10) (CD) J Dwyer 5 6 8	.....	J Dwyer 4
6	1-0560	WHITECHAPEL (21) (D) D Kuller 5 9 8	.....	M Dwyer 4
7	244346	UNLIMITED (16) (CD) A Carroll 10 9 7	.....	J-P Guilliammet 8
8	611400	KIPKACH (IRE) (55) (CD) C Dore 7 9 4	.....	D Kenny (5) 6
9	200404	ARACHNOPHOBIA (IRE) (34) (CD) M Bosley 6 9 3	.....	Luke Morris 9
10	AD OF SPIES (IRE) (34) (CD) M Bosley 6 9 3	.....	.....	Luke Morris 9
11	8-6005	YUNGBABURA (IRE) (16) C D Griffiths 8 8 7	.....	F Norton 5
12	0000-0	MISTRESS SHY (53) M Appleby 5 7 7	.....	D Fox (3) 3